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WORLD SOCCER

The INTERNATIONAL Magazine

ON SUNDAY

93 DEAD IN SOCCER DISASTER

THE GATES OF HELL

Many children among victims of the tragedy

• Nearly 300 dead or injured in Britain's worst football disaster • Fans crushed and suffocated

Tragedy on the terraces

WHO OPENED THE GATES?

By ANDREW LOUDON and JOHN HAMS

TWO uniformed po officers ignored a stew desperate warning and open metal gates

COMMENT

The final whistle

THE HORROR OF HILLSBOROUGH

MPs demand action as Thatcher says: They didn't have a chance

NEVER AGAIN

SCRAP THE FINAL

STAR SPORT COMMENT by BOB DRISCOLL

THE KILLING FIELD

SHUT THE TERRACES NOW

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FRONT COVER: The Kop's tribute to the victims of Hillsborough.
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HILLSBORO

by KEIR RADNEDGE

HOOLIGAN violence was NOT the cause of the disaster surge at Hillsborough on that tragic Saturday, April 15, when 94 Liverpool fans were crushed to death and 170 were injured.

Emergency workers, officials, most policemen — though not all — and fans were quick, in the shadow of Europe's worst sports disaster, to make that point.

But hooligan violence WAS the root cause of those fatal consequences. Without hooliganism of the rampant nature which has become such a scar on the game, we would never have seen steel fences of such rigid, secure design that they could withstand such mortal pressure.

Fans were crushed to death against the very barriers built to protect them from each other.

Refined policing and video cameras may have helped shut the stable door but the hooligan spectre had long since bolted and football and its fans reaped the terrible consequences of having turned a blind eye for so many years.

The Horror of Hillsborough also drove a coach and horses through the notion that legislation is the ultimate panacea for whatever may be wrong within the British game.

The original Safety of Sports Grounds Act went onto the statute book in 1975 . . . since when we have had the Bradford disaster and now this.

Safe? Safe for no-one. In the rush to legislate, in the rush for politicians to display all the wisdom after the event which has again been in evidence lately, common sense went out of the window.

Local government safety officers, with hooligan control paramount over emergency demands, insisted on steel fences.

Sheffield Wednesday was a case in point, where local government officials got their way despite objections from the club's own safety adviser.

Siren voices were raised when Valley Parade went up in flames. How many hundreds would have died had they not been able, in those desperate seconds, to scramble to safety over the terrace wall and onto the pitch?

But it's not only football people who have short memories; and a week is a long time in politics.

The question posed by Bradford was never answered. Not by Sports Ministers or so-called "safety" officers.

Given that legislation has failed football and its fans so tragically in one direction, can one have any faith in the ID card concept?

Many senior names in the game, Manchester United's Martin Edwards among them, have warned of similar consequences inherent in the ID Bill.

The ID checks, however simplified, will inevitably hold up fans still further and increase the impatience level amid the airless claustrophia of our old stadia entrances.

It's no good politicians saying fans must arrive earlier at games. Our stadia are squashed into built-up areas jammed with traffic.

Many fans find arriving on time an achievement, never mind arriving early.

And, amid all the talk of United States sports spectator facilities, the fact is that Americans expect to arrive quite as late as their British spectating counterparts.

That is all part of what they are due as the people who pay their money — whether directly through the gate, or indirectly through all the other systems (advertising and sponsorship response, souvenirs, etc) — financing the game.

In the meantime, there are a myriad of other questions to be considered by the game, by the government and by the inquiry teams.

They cover the lop-sided ticket allocation, the traffic-dictated ground allocations, the decision to open that gate, the police filter system to check tickets, the failure of the video camera officers to correlate action on the ground, the general police tactics, the influence of alcohol and the absence of adequate first-aid equipment.

Home Secretary, Douglas Hurd, has nailed his colours to the mirage of all-seater stadia.

There has been much talk of the wonderful stadia abroad where such accidents do not happen.

But only a minority of foreign stadia are all-seater. Does no-one realise this?

Certainly banks of seats prevent the crowd surges on the terraces. But they do not prevent crowd surges in the stadium environs.

The Ibrox disaster was on an exit staircase, not a terrace.

Similarly, seven years ago, dozens were killed at the Lenin Olympic stadium at Kluzhniki in Moscow after a UEFA Cup tie between Spartak and Haarlem.

So what happened? Someone slipped on ice in an exit and mayhem followed.

The horrible irony of Hillsborough is that Liverpool fans, so vehemently castigated as the aggressors at Heysel, were now the victims.

There is no point in joining the ranks of those who are suddenly wise after the event.

The long-term perspective will show that because the English game was too slow to deal with hooliganism in the late 1960s and early 1970s, its controlling measures were ill-conceived and instituted too hastily and too late.

Maybe the hooliganism problem was beyond a cure — or, at least, a cure which lay within the narrow confines of football officialdom.

Ted Croker, recently retired secretary of the FA, may not have been quite at his diplomatic best when he was reported to have told Mrs Thatcher: "We don't want your hooligans spoiling our game."

But his reasoning was not far off-beam, even though he would have drawn back from envisaging the murderous, long-term consequence.

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YOU'LL N

IN the week which followed the worst crowd disaster in the history of British football, Liverpool's famous Anfield Kop was turned into a shrine in memory of the fans who died at Hillsborough.

And at six minutes past three on the afternoon of Saturday April 22, just seven days after the catastrophe, a great hush fell over the whole city.

Traffic came to a standstill, shoppers stood with their heads bowed and televisions were silent as hundreds of thousands observed a minute's silence.

For nearly a century Liverpool has been a divided city when it has come to football. One half swearing allegiance to the red of Liverpool, the other half to the blue of Everton.

But after the horror of Hillsborough, Merseyside was united in its grief.

That was how the bereaved found the strength to come to terms with the agony and despair and later with the bitterness and recrimination.

Liverpool's distraught manager Kenny Dalglish said, with immense admiration for a stricken community: "The people of Merseyside have reacted to the tragedy in a way

UGH HORROR

EVER WALK ALONE

by RICHARD BOTT of the Sunday Express

no other city in the world would have reacted.

"They have kept together and been supportive and helpful to each other.

"If they hadn't done that this city would be in a worse state than it is at the present moment".

Anguish turned to anger in the wake of startling accusations and insensitivity.

For the second time in four short years, the most successful club in the history of English football heard its followers condemned and villified as looters, thugs and drunkards.

The stark headlines and bitter words were in total contrast to the scenes at Anfield in the first days after the tragedy when thousands upon thousands of wreaths and hand-written tributes were laid on the turf and the Kop.

The goal posts became an altar of flowers and favours. Scarves, many of them in the blue and white of Everton, were knotted together with the red of Liverpool and tied to the crush barriers and to the outer gates, named after Liverpool's legendary mentor Bill Shankly.

More than one million people filed quietly through those gates and on to the pitch during the official week of mourning declared by the city's councillors.

Many wept, many offered a prayer. And for those who could not cope, there was always a comforting hand.

The flowers, the mourners, came from far and wide. Wreaths from Scotland, Wales, from across the Irish sea, from Europe.

Everywhere in the city there were buckets, bottles, collecting tins, jars . . . as the money poured in to boost the disaster fund.

I heard of a security guard who took two days off work to run round Anfield for 48 hours non-stop to raise money for the bereaved.

After Heysel and Hillsborough, Liverpool Football Club must wonder when the weeping will stop.

But in the midst of their grief, the people of Merseyside have found an inner strength and unity that has ensured they will never walk alone.

HILLSBOROUGH HORROR

PLEASURE TURNS TO SORROW AND PAIN

by DAVID HARRISON of 'TODAY'

THE image of one man still haunts me as I relive the horror of Hillsborough.

He wandered around the pitch in a daze, tears streaming down his face. He was shouting "Bobby, Bobby."

He examined the rows of bodies as he searched for his lost son. I don't know whether he found him but I suspect his worst fears were about to be realised.

Some 10 yards away another Liverpool fan, Troy Turner, was clinging to his nine-year-old boy Joseph. He had hauled him to safety as the wave of bodies cascaded down the terraces.

"I was just hanging onto him for dear life when someone pulled us both out," he said.

Slowly the enormity of the tragedy was beginning to unfold.

I had never suspected I was witnessing death on this scale as I watched from the Press box 15 minutes earlier.

It appeared to be no more than a serious case of overcrowding as the match kicked off. Even when a lone policeman ran onto the pitch to ask referee Ray Lewis to halt the match, everyone thought it was a temporary interruption.

Then they started to haul out the bodies. Policemen, firemen and St John's Ambulance workers — some of them mere children — began trying to pump life back into the victims.

I walked down to the side of the pitch and immediately regretted it. The penalty area was littered with the dead and dying.

Many of them were teenagers who had been at the front of the terraces and felt the full force of the pressure.

They did not have any wounds. All life had just been crushed out of them.

Those Liverpool fans who had clambered to safety were shouting hysterically at the police for opening the gates.

Most had grizzly, graphic tales to tell.

"It was like the Grand National," said supporter John Owen. "They were dying at the first barrier, they were dying at the second barrier but most of them died at the front of the cage.

Trapped

"I could hear people's legs snapping as they fell under the weight of the crowd. They were screaming out but there was nowhere for them to go except down under the mass of bodies.

"I saw one bloke die when he was trapped against the barrier by his neck.

"I got hold of one kid's hand to try and pull him out but I was too late. He was dead."

Another fan Stuart Norris said: "I was at Heysel and that was bad enough but I never thought I would see this happen in England.

"I was running over bodies in Brussels and now I've had to run over bodies in Sheffield. Yet all this should never have happened.

"It was stupid to give Liverpool fans the smallest end of the ground because everyone knows we have got more fans than Forest.

"And it was a bloody disgrace for the police to open the gates. People just charged through without having to show their tickets.

"Those already in the ground at the front never stood a chance."

The police were oblivious to the accusing fingers which were already being pointed towards them. They were too busy saving lives.

If there was a hint of movement among the prostrate figures, they pounded furiously on their chests and breathed into their mouths.

But all-too-often the fight was in vain.

Battle-hardened bobbies broke down and wept as the victims were ferried out on makeshift stretchers to the gymnasium which was now a morgue.

When the match was finally abandoned, supporters from both sides filed away in silent disbelief.

In the Leppings Lane enclosure, the twisted wreckage of the safety barriers were left as grotesque reminders of the carnage.

I shall never forget the moans of those who lay dying at the pitchside or the tortured faces of those who looked on helplessly as their friends slipped away.

But mostly I will remember the father who didn't know whether his boy was dead or alive.

I will think of him if ever I consider taking my three year-old son to a match when he is older. Then I will leave him safely at home.

I am sad to say he will never share my love for a sport which has brought me so much joy and pleasure but which, on Saturday, brought me only sorrow and pain.

HILLSBOROUGH HORROR

PAST TRAGEDIES

1964 — 318 die and 500 seriously injured at the worst sporting catastrophe, in Lima, on May 24. A 45,000 crowd attend an Olympic qualifying tie between Peru and Argentina. Two minutes from time the crowd erupts when Uruguayan referee Pazos disallows a Peruvian equaliser. The police panic and fire shots into the air. As people run to escape so they fall down exit staircases.

1989 — 95 die and 170 are injured after a crowd surge traps fans against steel fencing at the front of the Leppings Lane terracing at Sheffield Wednesday's Hillsborough ground on April 15. The occasion is an FA Cup semi-final between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest and almost all those killed and injured in the crush, right at the start of the match, are Liverpool fans.

1968 — 74 die and 150 hurt in Argentina's worst crowd disaster on June 23 in the River Plate stadium at Nunez in Buenos Aires. After a goalless draw between River and Boca Juniors, some Boca fans throw lighted newspaper torches onto fans in the lower tiers, causing panic and a stampede.

1988 — 71 die and 200 are injured in Katmandu when the crowd stampedes for the exit because of a hailstorm midway through a club match between teams from Nepal and Bangladesh.

1982 — 69 die and 100 are injured in confusion at the end of the Moscow Spartak v Haarlem UEFA Cup second round first leg tie in the Lenin stadium. Fans slip on ice in the exits on the way out of the stadium and others fall over them. Later reports blame alcohol for crowd impatience.

1971 — 66 die and 100 hurt at Ibrox Park, on January 2. Celtic lead 1-0 just before the end of the Old Firm derby in Glasgow against home team Rangers, when Rangers' Colin Stein scores an equaliser. Many fans on Staircase 13 turn back, only to be swept down the steps by fans still coming out. The disaster led to the 1975 Safety of Sports Grounds legislation.

1985 — 53 die and 200 are hurt as fire rages through the old stand at Valley Parade, Bradford, on May 11 during the game between Bradford City and Lincoln — at which Bradford fans expected to be celebrating their club's promotion to the second division.

1974 — 49 die and 50 are hurt in the crush of fans in Cairo, in February, trying to get in to see Zamalek play Dukla Prague.

1971 — 44 die and 600 are injured in Turkey in September after fighting in the crowd after a controversial goal leads to the collapse of a platform during a lower division game between Kayseri and Siwas.

1985 — 39 die and 250 are hurt on May 29 after a wall collapses in the Heysel Stadium in Brussels before the European Cup Final between Juventus and Liverpool. The wall falls under pressure from Italian fans trying to escape a terrace charge from Liverpool supporters.

1946 — 33 die and more than 400 are injured on March 9 after a containing wall collapses under pressure before the start of an FA Cup quarter-final between Bolton and Stoke.

1988 — 30 die and 120 are injured in Tripoli before an international between Libya and Malta. Police firing shots in the air to try to calm a packed crowd cause a panic and stampede.

1902 — 25 die and 500 are hurt as part of a stand at Ibrox Park, Glasgow, collapses during an international between Scotland and England.

1982 — 24 die and 50 are injured in November at a Colombian championship match between America and Deportivo Cali. A crowd surge is provoked in a lower tier of the stadium after fans above hurl own missiles and urinate on spectators below.

1981 — 21 die and 54 are hurt after fans fall on a stairway during the Greek derby between Olympiakos and AEK in the Karaiskaki stadium in February.

1975 — 20 die at the Soloniki Sports Palace in Moscow in March when the lights fail during a youth match between teams from the Soviet Union and Canada.

1981 — 17 die and 15 are hurt as a stand collapses in Ibague, Colombia, before a championship semi-final between Tolima and Deportivo Cali.

1979 — 12 children are trampled to death in September in a stampede at the Meda stadium in Indonesia.

1985 — 10 die and 74 are injured in a crowd crush at the Estadio Azteca in Mexico City in May before a championship final between America and UNAM.

1982 — 8 die and 600 are injured in November when a stand collapses in Algiers during a league match.

1976 — 6 die at the Haiti v Cuba World Cup qualifier in Port-au-Prince in December after trigger-happy police open fire following the explosion of a firecracker.

1961 — 5 die and 35 are hurt before an international between Chile and Brazil in Santiago, in April.

1961 — 3 die and 320 are injured after a pillar of a stand collapses during a Rangers v Celtic match at Ibrox, in September.

1982 — 3 die and 25 are badly injured as police fire off shots to try to quell an angry crowd in Brazil after home team San Luis are beaten by Fortaleza, in March.

HILLSBOROUGH HORROR

FROM BRUSSELS TO LISBON . . .

1985
May 29: Fighting breaks out at the Heysel Stadium, Brussels, between Liverpool and Juventus fans before the European Cup Final; 39 fans die as crowd panics.
June 1: Football Association orders withdrawal of all English clubs from European competitions. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher promises emergency legislation to tackle causes of soccer hooliganism.
June 2: English clubs indefinitely banned from European football by UEFA. Liverpool face further disciplinary action. Decision postponed about English national team.
June 7: FIFA extend ban to English clubs playing friendly matches worldwide.
June 20: Liverpool banned from any European competition for which they qualify for further three years beyond lifting of indefinite suspension on English clubs.
July 12: FIFA lift ban on English clubs playing abroad outside Europe.
Aug 8: UEFA reject Liverpool appeal for reduction in sanctions.
Dec 13: FIFA lift ban on English clubs playing friendly matches in Europe.

1986
April 23: FA officials hear UEFA confirm that they will not discuss possibility of English clubs returning to Europe next season.
May 10: UEFA vote again to continue suspension of English clubs.

1988
January 19: Sports Minister Colin Moynihan persuades UEFA executive meeting in Monte Carlo that European ban on English clubs should not be lifted until after summer European Championships.
May 4: UEFA president Jacques Georges confirms that ban will not be lifted without British Government consent.
May 5: Sports Minister confirms that Government not prepared to offer UEFA reassurances for lifting of ban.
June 15: Police fire tear gas during pitched battle with England football fans and German and Dutch youths in Dusseldorf during European Championships.
July 7: Government announce introduction of national membership scheme with identity cards for all football supporters. Bill to be introduced to restrict entry to matches.
November 28: Convicted soccer hooligans to be banned from travelling abroad under new Government measures.

1989
January 17: Football Supporters Bill published, outlining plans for national membership scheme and banning of convicted hooligans from travelling abroad.
February 22: Letter from League chairman Jack Dunnett urges clubs to put pressure on local MP's to oppose Football Spectators Bill.
February 27: Sports Minister confirms that Government want Football Spectators Bill implemented before English clubs return to European tournaments. February 28: Sports Minister says it is "inconceivable" that English clubs should be readmitted to Europe.
April 7: FA chief executive Graham Kelly calls Minister's refusal to back return of English clubs to Europe "blackmail".
April 11: UEFA decide to readmit English clubs in 1990-91 dependent upon support of English Government.

ENGLISH ACHIEVEMENTS

CHAMPIONS' CUP

Winners: Manchester United (1968); Liverpool (1977, 1978, 1981, 1984); Nottingham Forest (1979, 1980); Aston Villa (1982).
Runners-up: Leeds United (1975); Liverpool (1985).

CUP-WINNERS' CUP

Winners: Tottenham Hotspur (1963); West Ham United (1965); Manchester City (1970); Chelsea (1971); Everton (1985).
Runners-up: Liverpool (1966); Leeds United (1973); West Ham United (1976); Arsenal (1980).

FAIRS/UEFA CUP

Winners: Leeds United (1968, 1971); Newcastle United (1969); Arsenal (1970); Tottenham Hotspur (1972, 1984); Liverpool (1973, 1976); Ipswich Town (1981).
Runners-up: London XI (1958); Birmingham City (1960, 1961); Leeds United (1967); Wolverhampton Wanderers (1972); Tottenham Hotspur (1974).

RETURN REMAINS

EVEN before the Hillsborough disaster, there was a great deal of doubt within the English game over whether the clubs really would be back in European competition for the start of the 1990-91 season.

After it, of course, came the mutton-chopped insensitivity of UEFA president Jacques Georges plus some problematic words from FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter — all of which further confused the issue.

UEFA had, with surprising alacrity, given a conditional green light from their executive meeting in Lisbon.

Euphoria

But opening the door for the English clubs to return to the Champions' Cup, the Cup Winners' Cup and the UEFA Cup was dependent on the all-clear being given by the British Government AND an absence of hooligan trouble at the 1990 World Cup finals.

That meant Sport Minister Colin Moynihan, which in turn strengthened his hand enormously in trying to pilot the Football Spectators ID card legislation through Parliament.

There was initial euphoria among sectors of English football — a reaction which rapidly cooled as the consequences became clear.

Nottingham Forest chairman Maurice Roworth was among the doubters, even though his club had just landed the first major trophy of the season by defeating Luton Town 3-1 in the Littlewoods League Cup Final.

Any other year up until 1985 and that victory would have ensured Brian Clough and his team guaranteed presence in Europe the following season.

But even if they hang onto the Cup next year, Roworth is pessimistic about Forest leading the re-entry brigade.

He says: "I don't think our clubs will be back in Europe in 1990 if it depends on having introduced a compulsory ID scheme by then.

"This smacks of political blackmail. I don't think clubs are going to withdraw their objections to the Government's plan because of the damage they feel this proposed legislation will do to the game, especially at the lower levels.

"Margaret Thatcher, through her Sports Minister, is using football as the scapegoat by which to cover up the inability of her Government to tackle the wider law and order problems.

"She need only listen to senior policemen to appreciate the clubs have made great strides to put their houses in order and that the most serious problems now exist away from grounds over which football has no control."

Martin Edwards, chief executive of Manchester United, echoed Roworth's words.

Edwards is confident that the mirage of European competition will not weaken the domestic game's opposition to ID cards.

Edwards said: "UEFA's decision is good news but the sting in the tail is that the final decision will be at the Government's discretion.

"The lure of Europe will not affect our stance. We still oppose ID cards.

"I don't think the cards will improve the situation.

"I think they will cause hardship to supporters and cause problems at the turnstiles.

"We must stand for what we believe in. The carrot being dangled of playing in Europe is attractive but you can't sacrifice your principles.

"We will maintain our opposition."

Other clubs unmoved by the European implications include Aston Villa (yet another of England's former European Cup-winning clubs), Sheffield Wednesday and Manchester City.

Fight

Doug Ellis, Villa's chairman and a member of the League management committee, said: "We will continue to oppose the legislation and fight for sensible amendments until the law is passed, which it surely will be with the size of the Government's majority in Parliament.

"Then we will do everything to co-operate with the Government to make it effective."

Sheffield Wednesday secretary Graham Mackrell said: "We are totally opposed to the ID scheme and will continue to be so.

"UEFA have responded to the improvements in crowd control here and we think their referral back to the Government is understandable.

"But the ID scheme is unnecessary and unwanted.

HILLSBOROUGH HORROR

TO EUROPE UNCERTAIN

by KEIR RADNEDGE

"The Government could have put the second part of their bill through Parliament in a day.

"There would be little objection to preventing convicted hooligans from travelling abroad. I'm sure UEFA would have welcomed that move alone,"

Norwich City chairman Robert Chase thinks that a move among the clubs to settle on a minimum 50 per cent membership level could be a solid enough rock on which the ID cards Bill might founder.

He says: "What we are saying to the Government is that at last we recognise the need for a membership scheme.

"It needn't interfere with their Bill, which could still be in place and held over football like a sword.

"It would help the Prime Minister make concessions to football and still enable her Bill to come in overnight if we fail to deliver on our proposals.

"Our message is that it's never too late and football deserves another chance because of the strides that have been made in the last few seasons.

"The Government doesn't want the hassle of running this — it's football's responsibility and now some members of the management committee are showing a lead."

ENGLISH clubs' last European success ... Peter Reid holds the Cup Winners' Cup aloft after Everton's 1985 triumph in Rotterdam.

WHAT THEY SAY

UEFA'S STATEMENT: "Having regard to the enormous efforts undertaken by the English Football authorities in order to improve the security measures at football matches, the executive committee of UEFA, meeting in Palmela, Portugal, with Jacques Georges of France in the chair, decided unanimously on the reintegration of English clubs into the European club competitions with effect from the 1990-91 season.

"This reintegration will take place subject to the implementation and observation by the British government of the European Convention on the Fight Against Violence in Sport, and provided the government gives its support and aid to the English football authorities.

"UEFA President Jacques Georges will seek a meeting with the English minister for sports in April of 1990, and based on the President's report, the Executive Committee will confirm or refuse the decision taken today in Portugal."

UEFA PRESIDENT JACQUES GEORGES (on Monday, April 18): "Once again it is Liverpool involved in such events, this region which seems to have a particularly aggressive mentality. You might even talk of people's frenzy when they enter a stadium scorning the lives of others and scorning all human feeling. It was like — it almost upsets me to use the expression — beasts charging into an arena, with their eyes popping out of their heads . . . really it seems it was not far from hooliganism. Of course, at Heysel, that was a savage onslaught during the course of which the Liverpool fans grabbed whatever weapons they could — iron bars, railings, whatever. It seemed that these scenes at Hillsborough were reminiscent of a similar savage onslaught, but without the weapons."

GERD AIGNER, UEFA GENERAL SECRETARY: "The decision to re-admit English teams to the three European club competitions is not a matter for discussion despite the events in Sheffield."

UEFA PRESIDENT JACQUES GEORGES (on Tuesday, April 19): "I regret that perhaps my words were too harsh and I over-reacted to what I understood was the situation at the time. It was just that the scenes at Sheffield reminded me of Heysel. Seeing images which, one must admit, resembled those sad scenes of May 1985 opened wounds which are still not healed and have caused me personally utmost grief and unspeakable horror."

FIFA GENERAL SECRETARY SEPP BLATTER: "Because of the events at Hillsborough I would expect the English FA or the British government will probably take the matter of the clubs' re-entry into Europe into their own hands and not expect to take part once again from 1990-91. It seems that given the current state of repair of most English clubs' stadia, they could not host home games in European competitions."

FA SPOKESMAN DAVID BLOOMFIELD: "I think such remarks are perhaps untimely. This particular item is way down the agenda as far as we are concerned at the moment. But, as far as we are concerned, there is no change in the UEFA position."

ENGLISH FA Secretary Graham Kelly: "We are very pleased indeed with the decision.

"Jacques Georges has given us the light at the end of the the tunnel. It's as much as we could have hoped for. We put forward a strong case.

"We have had more than 200 friendly matches abroad over the last two seasons. These have been carefully monitored and vetted by the FA and the League and we have had no reported incidents.

"We have part two of the Bill coming, which can prevent convicted troublemakers travelling abroad.

"We have the support of a lot of member associations and the support of every delegate.

"We have a range of measures which we can put into effect.

"We will put at the disposal of the clubs the advance planning that we use for England games abroad.

"We could take no tickets if that was deemed appropriate and could also encourage the relay of close circuit transmissions back to England."

FOOTBALL League president Jack Dunnett: "The Government is committed and we have done our part.

"Now UEFA are waiting one more year very rightly and properly.

● *Continued overleaf*

HILLSBOROUGH HORROR

● *Continued from previous page*

"The ruling is a victory for English football and we will continue to work towards eliminating the problem of hooliganism.

"The League has done everything in its power to combat violence but a hundred per cent guarantee on travelling fans could never be given.

"We cannot put a steel ring around Britain."

EVERTON chief executive Jim Greenwood: "This is obviously the news we have been waiting to hear for a long time.

"The ban has had a great effect on many clubs. They have missed Europe and Europe has missed them.

"Few would argue that because of the ban the competitions were effectively watered down.

"Two years is a long time to wait, but at least now we have something definite to hold on to."

LIVERPOOL chief executive Peter Robinson: "Everybody in football will be delighted with the news.

"Our players have suffered because they have never had the experience of European competition apart from appearing for their national teams."

DAVID WILL, Scotland FA president: "The English clubs' re-entry had been effectively put back a year due to lack of support from the Government.

"The UEFA decision is a half-way house but everyone on the UEFA executive committee wants to see the English clubs back in Europe.

"If the Government had backed the FA, there would have been a unanimous decision for them to come back this year."

JUVENTUS president Giampiero Boniperti: "We are happy for this decision.

"English clubs have already paid for what has been a wound for the entire European soccer.

"We wish that Liverpool, faced with a three-year extra ban, can be pardoned."

BRITISH Sports Minister Colin Moynihan said: "I am pleased.

"But the confirmation of this decision still depends on the success of new anti-violence legislation and a trouble-free World Cup next summer in Italy.

"Our legislation and the good behaviour of English fans at the World Cup will be considerations for UEFA to look at carefully.

"We've got a long way to go in the next 12 months.

"If we do not see major improvements in the behaviour of English fans at the World Cup next year and we do not get the full co-operation of the English clubs with the membership scheme, I do not think it would be reasonable for the English clubs to be re-admitted.

"Our international reputation over a 10-year period has been dragged through the mud because of the appalling behaviour of our fans at home and abroad.

"It will now require a determined effort to show UEFA that by this time next year, and subject to the behaviour of English fans at the World Cup, we are ready."

MICHEL PLATINI, whose goal won the tragic 1985 European Cup Final, said: "I'm very happy about the comeback of English clubs.

"They bring something fantastic to the sport, especially the European cups in which they boast the highest number of victories.

"I was always against their ban so I'm delighted they're back.

"I was very sad after Heysel because fighting and death had replaced passion and cheering which are necessary to the sport.

"It is not a problem for England only or for football only.

"Recently, people died at a rock concert in Mexico. No-one banned the Mexican musicians from giving concerts."

ANGEL VILLAR, president of the Spanish federation: "This decision is a good one, as long as measures continue to eradicate violence.

"We suppose that the UEFA executive committee is satisfied of the guarantee offered by political and sports authorities in the United Kingdom."

ALAIN DUCHATELET, Belgian Interior Ministry spokesman: "We will have to consider all the implications.

"The Minister, Louis Tobback, does not object to this in the sense that he does not want to go all out against the UEFA decision.

"But, of course, after the Heysel tragedy, Belgium indefinitely prohibited British professional soccer clubs from playing here.

"Now we have to see under what conditions their return can be effected.

"There must be enough guarantees for sufficient security forces and crowd control so that the full Belgian government can lift the ban."

ALAIN COURTOIS, secretary general of the Belgian federation: "If the English federation and the clubs can show the fans are prepared to improve their behaviour, then our federation has no objections to their return to European competition.

"The Belgian Government still has a ban on English professional teams in force and talks would have to take place to rectify this situation.

"From a sporting point of view, it is a good thing. It always was a pity the English clubs were suspended from the cups.

"But we have to remain careful and see what the behaviour of the fans will be."

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ERIC WEIL REPORTS FROM SOUTH AMERICA

COLOMBIAN TITLE HUNT UNDER WAY

THE Colombian professional championship finally got under way following a three week delay while the government was investigating the influx of drug money into clubs.

There are 30 foreign players registered by the 15 clubs — 20 Argentines, four Paraguayans, three Brazilians, two Uruguayans and one Peruvian — while only five of the coaches are from abroad — Argentines Carlos Dizz and Miguel Angel Lopez at Caldas and Junior respectively, Paraguayan Gerardo Gonzalez Aquino with Pereira, Brazilian Nelson Batista (Nelsinho) with Sporting and Yugoslav Vladimir Popovio with Deportivo Cali.

After three games, Nacional and Junior are sharing the lead with five points, the former in spite of fielding weakened teams at times due to their participation in the Libertadores Cup.

But with the basis of the national team in their squad they have good reserves.

ARGENTINA: BOCA JUNIORS LEAD

BOCA JUNIORS continue to lead the Argentine National A Division although of their last four games they have only won two and lost two.

Contrary to others, the club, which is also engaged in the Libertadores Cup, has so far given more importance to the league to the point that they sent a reserve team to play two cup games in Peru.

Independiente, whose veteran midfield general Ricardo Bochini says this may be his last season, trail Boca by three points — a narrow margin with 11 games to go especially as this season three points are awarded for a win and two to the winner of a penalty shoot-out deciding a draw.

Erratic

Gimnasia y Esgrima de La Plata, unbeaten for nine games, are third a further point behind and Argentinos Juniors, playing the best soccer, are another point back.

Argentinos have at least six players who have come up from the junior divisions this season, with Caceres and Redondo standing out, and a coach, Nito Veiga, who goes for attacking soccer.

River Plate, erratic in the first round under coach Cesar Menotti this season, seem to be settling down and have gained a series of easy victories, but they are still eight points off the top.

IN ECUADOR

THE league form of champions Emelec has also suffered as a result of their poor performances in the Libertadores Cup and they dismissed their Uruguayan coach, Juan Ramon Silva.

After five games, Barcelona lead by one point from Liga Deportiva Universitaria.

EUROPEAN STARS MISSING

ARGENTINA and Brazil began their 1989 international activity with games against South American rivals in which they fielded teams without their many stars playing in Europe . . . and their performances showed that they have not yet found replacements.

Argentina faced Colombia in Barranquilla and did quite well in only losing 1-0 against a team which is today considered to be about the strongest on the continent.

And they also had their midfield star, Valderrama, who is currently playing in Europe.

Argentina, on the other hand, fielded none of their foreign based stars and lined up a team of largely untried players with only one from their 1986 World Cup winning squad, midfielder Enrique, and he was named captain for the day.

Overall, Argentina were outplayed by a more experienced side which should have won by a wider margin.

Brazil, meanwhile, beat poor Ecuadorian opposition 1-0 at home with what even the Brazilian press said was an off-side goal.

Brazil's performance in their first game under new coach Sebastiao Lazaroni was strongly criticised from all sides . . . and so was the coach who said he would not call up any players with European clubs for the moment.

IN BOLIVIA

THREE more clubs have withdrawn for financial reasons — San Jose, Jorge Wilsterman and Aurora — from the professional league (Municipal had already dropped out during last season) leaving ten clubs in the first stage of the championship which is due to end on July 11 with clubs playing each other twice.

It is hoped, however, that all 14 clubs will be back to play in the more important second stage which will start on October 1 — after this year's South American (nations) Championship — and which will decide the national champion and Libertadores Cup qualifiers.

Destroyers top the table after four games, but Bolivar and The Strongest, last season's top two teams, have not started playing yet due to their engagements in the Libertadores Cup.

IN CHILE

SOCCER continues to be divided with an FA which has one president, Miguel Nasur, who refuses to resign in spite of clamour from several clubs threatening to break away and another interim president, Sergio Stoppel, voted in by the clubs.

FIFA does not recognise Stoppel and has ordered the Chilean FA to put its house in order as soon as possible.

Elections are likely to be held in early April.

Meanwhile the pre-season tournament has started with 40 clubs — all first and second division clubs — divided in four sections as last year.

The winning team obtains three points and draws will be decided by penalty shoot-outs with two points going to the winner and one to the loser.

MEN IN THE NEWS

JOSE Rene Higuita is Colombia's regular international goalkeeper at 22 and he plays for Nacional, of Medellin, which supplies most players for the national squad.

Many fans call him a clown, because he often comes out of his area and even dribbles the ball upfield after taking it off an opponent.

But Higuita says he does this not to show off, but because he feels he can serve his team better in this way.

"A goalkeeper must be in the match all the time," he says about his forays, "and if I play the ball with my feet it is because I feel I am capable of doing it as well as the other players in the team, but not to make a clown of myself."

Higuita sprang to fame in the 1985 South American Junior Championship in which his country placed third and the following year played in the Junior World Cup finals held in the Soviet Union.

After that he made his professional debut with current league champions Millonarios who have loaned him to Nacional.

Higuita started playing soccer as a centre forward, however, and still feels frustrated at not being able to score goals.

He hasn't yet taken the ball up from his own goal to score on the other side, but he works off his frustration by taking his team's penalties.

In the last two championships he has taken 20 and converted 17 while this year he has already netted a couple in the Libertadores Cup's first stage.

MAJOR TRANSFERS

Ze Maria, 21, Brazilian winger from Fluminense (Brazil) to Neuchatel Xamax (Switzerland).

Benjamin Nzeabor "Benji", 24, Nigerian international centre forward, from Victoria (Brazil) to Fluminense (Brazil).

Gerardo Reinoso, Argentine midfielder, from River Plate (Argentina) to Universidad Catolica (Chile) for $250,000 plus proceeds of two friendly matches between the two clubs.

RUBEN PAZ of Racing Club of Argentina clears a Universitario attack in the recent Libertadores Cup match.

BILARDO'S RECORD

CARLOS BILARDO took over as national team coach in Argentina early in 1983 following the resignation of Cesar Menotti, under whom the country won the 1978 World Cup.

Stepping into Menotti's shoes was certainly a tall order and Bilardo has rarely been the darling of the fans from whom he has received strong criticism, as well as from the media and soccer officials, not only because of his overall poor track record, but also because his teams have not played pretty football like Menotti's.

Argentina played their first international under Bilardo on May 12, 1983 and altogether in almost five years, they have played 64 full internationals, winning 26, drawing 19 and losing 19 with a 83-59 goals record.

The record is nothing to write home about and it includes a surprisingly poor performance in front of their own fans in the 1987 South American Championship in which they were placed fourth.

But Bilardo did equal Menotti in one thing — he is also a World Cup winner in Mexico in 1986 from where he returned home to see huge banners spread out all over the place reading: "Sorry, Bilardo, we forgive you."

What does Bilardo, the former midfield general of Estudiantes de La Plata when they won the Libertadores Cup three years running from 1968 to 1970, have to say about it?

"When I took over as coach people told me 'Argentina is an exporter of soccer players and that is going to be your main problem," he said.

"And they were right. Most of my first team are now playing abroad so that they can rarely train together and often, as soon as I pick a new player he is transferred abroad."

Fans complain about poor results overall in international matches.

"The reason is precisely that stated above," said Bilardo.

"For the many friendly internationals and friendly tournaments we play in, we cannot get our players with foreign clubs so that we field virtual B teams.

"Under these circumstances, one can only really work properly for World Cups when my players from all over Europe can be assembled in good time and while these other friendly internationals are very useful in every aspect to blood new players, one cannot expect to win all the time."

The fans complain that Bilardo's teams do not play good (pretty) soccer.

Empty

"I could never quite understand what the fans wanted, nice play or good results?" said Bilardo.

"They say we have to play like Brazil, but TV, always conscious of its ratings, shows matches from Italy for our entertainment and not from Brazil.

"I also see that in Brazil, stadiums are empty while in Italy they are full. Somebody's wrong! Or TV, or the people. What I'm sure of is that people want to win."

They complained particularly last year when Argentina had a 1-3-3 record, including defeat against Australia.

"The record wasn't good, but the defeats have to be analysed and one can learn more from defeat than victory.

"It was mainly because we were trying to look for a team functioning between the older experienced players and the newcomers.

"Also, for the first time, some clubs refused to release players (apart from the absence of those playing abroad) and we had to make repeated team changes with four or five newcomers for most games."

And what of drugs?

"The problem is always there and we have permanent controls," said Bilardo.

"It's a race between doctors who work to get a player's physique to give more and those who work to detect drugs.

"I have no doubts that a well-prepared and concentrated team does not need drugs.

"I always advise players not to take drugs and it is a good thing that drug testing is carried out regularly in Argentine soccer."

What has changed since Bilardo took over as national team coach?

"Really, a lot of things . . . in the way of playing and training. And many things have come back.

"Now teams watch videos of their rivals and that was considered unwise before.

"The offside trap is applied more again after having been discarded for some time.

"The marking is closer (being on top of the man) while before it was being said that you can't play that way."

Rivals

Bilardo urged the Argentine FA to accept the invitation to play in this year's Rous Cup against England and Scotland, which was finally turned down for "lack of free dates".

Now he includes England among his main rivals for the 1990 World Cup, together with hosts Italy, Spain, West Germany and Holland.

What hopes does he have for 1990?

"After watching the leading European teams and knowing all about our South American rivals, I am sure we are among the best.

"If I can have all my players from Europe two months in advance to prepare the team properly and we don't finish among the top four, it will be a failure."

Does that mean Argentina should win this year's South American Championship in Brazil?

"I will call up nine players with European clubs for this event — goalkeeper Pumpido (Betis), Brown (Murcia), Ruggeri (Logrones), Troglio and Caniggia (Verona), Maradona (Napoli), Calderon (Paris Saint Germain), Dezotti (Lazio) and Burruchaga (Nancy) — and it will depend a lot on how soon before the July 1 start of the event I have them available and how Burruchaga and Caniggia recover from injuries."

Who will be missed from the 1986 World Cup squad?

"Players like defenders Garre, Olarticoechea and Brown, midfielder Giusti and winger Valdano will be too old.

"But Valdano will be most missed for what he means to the team inside and out of the field.

"Several replacements are being tried. Perhaps Caniggia will be the most likely substitute."

Does Bilardo want to continue as national team coach?

"Of course. I don't want to go. We are already thinking of 1994.

"I am not interested in coaching in Europe or anywhere else from where I have received some offers and I wouldn't leave the national team for money either.

"I know that, in any case, my continuing in the job depends on results and results will make me decide my own future too.

"But wherever I worked in the past I have the door open. I never caused any problems and today I can return without problems to San Lorenzo, Estudiantes de La Plata or Colombia."

EXCLUSIVE . . . from BRIAN H

BRAZI UNDER

BRAZIL'S proud record as the only nation present at every World Cup final is in danger.

The CBF, Brazil's chaotic football federation, has a new president, Ricardo Teixeira, son-in-law of FIFA president Joao Havelange.

But judging by the first few weeks of Teixeira's reign, few things are going to change in Brazilian football. And that could spell international disaster.

Teixeira has made some improvements, which at least show him as slightly more competent than his predecessor, the jet-setting, ice cream-devouring Otavio Pinto Guimaraes.

But the real problems remain unsolved and look like remaining unsolved.

The meaningless state championships look here to stay, the directors continue to set a bad example, the players continue to behave like spoilt children and the fans continue to be treated like dirt.

As a result, the country's domestic football remains incredibly monotonous and the stadiums remain empty, except, of course, for the most important matches.

Just how little respect there is in this country for the ordinary supporter was shown by two recent events.

On January 29, tens of thousands of fans turned up hours early for a game between Vasco and Fluminense, only to find the gates shut because of a legal dispute over admission charges.

The turnstiles eventually opened a mere one hour before kick- off (it should have been five hours), there was no change available and people were still queueing to get in 15 minutes into the second-half.

As a result there was a near riot, the police had to be called and 30,000 people simply gave up and went home.

On February 12, there was an act of irresponsibility on the part of the authorities which could have caused tragedy.

The occasion was the national championship semi-final between Bahia and, coincidentally, Fluminense at the Fonte Nova stadium in Salvador.

Unbelievably, the people responsible for selling the tickets (the Bahian Football Federation, whose president is a Marcos Andrade) decided to put profits above the safety of the spectators and sold 110,000 tickets for a stadium whose official capacity is 82,500.

The authorities must have been aware of the dangers of overcrowding because just six weeks earlier a pleasure boat had sunk off Rio de Janeiro, for that very reason, killing more than 50 people.

And as if that warning were not enough, on the day of the same Fonte Nova's inauguration in 1971, a scoreboard collapsed, causing a panic which killed five and injured 500.

Over 100,000 people had been crammed into the ground at the time.

This time there were no casualties, which was more by luck than by judgement.

But the stadium was so full that many people could not get in, even with tickets, which of course led to a riot with fences being pulled down, stones thrown and eventually the police being called.

And what action has been taken against the Bahian federation and its supporters? Absolutely none.

Meanwhile, two other things which desperately need changing — the players' behaviour and the state championships — look like remaining untouched.

Anyone who comes to Brazil for the first time thinking that the country has a national league as they have in European countries is in for a bit of a surprise.

Brazil does have a national championship but it is not played on a straightforward league basis and it only lasts for three to four months.

Five months are devoted to regional competitions (one championship for nearly every state of Brazil, the principal ones being Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Minas Gerais and Rio Grande do Sul).

The big problem with these is that most states have only two or three teams with any chance of winning the championship, so the organisers have to come up with all kinds of weird and wonderful rules to make the competition drag on for nearly half the year.

Take the Rio championship as an example.

Last year there were 12 teams, namely Vasco, Flamengo, Fluminense, Botafogo, America, Americano, Bangu, Porto Alegre, Goytacaz, Friburguense, Volta Redonda and Cabofriense.

In recent years the title has been shared exclusively between the first three teams, while the last five teams mentioned are of third division standard or less.

As the first round of the competition is played on a league basis, Vasco, Flamengo and Fluminense all had to play ten matches against vastly inferior opposition.

In England, of course, matches between fourth and first division teams are part of the romance of the FA Cup.

But if they happened every weekend the novelty would soon wear off.

In the Rio championship, the normal pattern in these games is for the strong team to score a couple of early goals and then just

FEELING the strain already . . . Ricardo Teixeira (right), the new president of the CBF. His predecessor Otavio Pinto Guimaraes is on the left (picture: Agencia JB).

MEWOOD in Rio de Janeiro

LIANS THREAT

knock the ball around for the rest of the afternoon, trying to save as much energy as possible. It's a complete waste of time.

To show what the supporters think of it, attendance figures from March last year, randomly selected as an example, include: Flamengo (capable of filling the Maracana stadium twice over) v Friburguense, 4,129; Vasco v Porto Alegre, 2,461; Fluminense v Bangu 4,941 (played in the Maracana stadium with its 160,000 capacity); and Goytacaz v America 2,305.

As for the rules of the competition, any attempt to explain them will take up most of this magazine.

Suffice to say that they confuse officials and players, let alone the ordinary supporter, and that last year Vasco and Flamengo met five times in four months for the Rio championship.

Things are worse in the state of Bahia where only two teams — Bahia and Vitoria — have any realistic chance of winning.

Matches between these two teams can run into double figures.

The obvious solution, advocated by many people in Brazil who are not football directors, is to cut the regional competitions down to one month and have a national league played over eight months. But does Teixeira intend to do this?

Not a bit of it.

"Here we have 8.5 million square kilometres, so we can't hold a championship in the way that England or Italy does," he told World Soccer.

"And if you ask the clubs, you'll find they want the regional championships.

"The rivalry is greater in a regional championship than in the national championship.

"The games between Flamengo and Fluminense for the regional championship have more importance and more appeal than in the national championship."

What Teixeira does not mention is that most of the big clubs are concentrated in the south-eastern corner of the country.

Of the 24 teams that took part in last year's national championshipp, 16 are situated in the 500 mile long strip of land between Rio de Janeiro and Curitiba.

And when he says that the clubs want the regional championships he is not referring to the people who really count, the players and the supporters, but to the clubs' directors, many of whom, for political reasons, prefer to keep things as they are.

Of the 24 clubs who took part in the 1988 national championship, 18 had better average attendances in the national championship than they did in the state.

For example, Bahia's average in the national championship was 26,529 against 14,215 in the state; Internacional averaged 24,247 in the national and 9,591 in the state; and Cruzeiro averaged 17,901 in the national, against a mere 4,308 in the state.

Teixeira has cut one month off the regional competitions.

But instead of allocating this to the national championship, he has created the "Brazil Cup" — another event in which the major teams will be forced to play against weaker opposition.

The Brazil Cup will be a knockout tournament between the winners of the 22 state championships, plus the runners-up from some of the bigger states.

Nearly all of the big teams in Brazil are concentrated in four or five states, and the champions from most states will be little more than target practice for the likes of Flamengo, Sao Paulo, Gremio, etc.

Lumbered

And the last thing Brazilian football needed was to be lumbered with yet another competition.

The cup was introduced simply because the smaller federations complained that their teams did not get to compete in the national championship.

Yet there is a simple explanation for this; the teams are not good enough.

It has to be said that the players do nothing to entice people to the stadiums, thanks to their appalling behaviour on the field.

Acting, mostly of a very low quality, has reached epidemic proportions both in terms of trying to win a penalty or free kick by diving and pretending to be hurt.

In fact, players often penalise themselves, getting into a dangerous position and then falling over when they have a chance to create or score a goal.

Sportsmanship is non-existent.

If, for example, Zico is waiting to take a free kick and an opponent has the ball, the opponent will throw the ball over Zico's head instead of to him so that Zico (who reamins a shining example to his ill-mannered fellow professionals) has to walk back ten to twenty yards to retrieve it.

And when Zico tries to take the free kick, an opponent will stand over the ball as long as possible to try and stop him.

As a result free kicks, even in the most harmless of positions, can take an eternity.

The ten yards rule is never respected at free kicks.

It's extremely rare to see a player run more than a few yards with the ball without being tripped, pulled back by his shirt or suffering something more violent.

And if a referee gives a controversial decision, he can expect to be surrounded and even attacked by members of the team against whom the decision has gone in a melee which often requires police intervention.

In the midst of all this are the referees who are frequent victims of verbal attacks by club directors in the press and who tend to be the scapegoats every time there is an ugly scene during a game.

Of course, this sort of thing happens in professional football everywhere — but not on the scale it happens in Brazil.

Every Sunday an Italian league match is shown live on Brazilian television.

Italian football is not exactly famous for its clean play or high level of sportsmanship, but the commentators make endless references to how quickly free kicks are taken, how few stoppages there are and the fact that the stadium is full.

In a recent game between Atalanta and Roma, in which the latter gave a thoroughly unattractive display, commentator Flavio Prado said it resembled a Brazilian game.

Teixeira recognises that there is a problem but insists there is nothing he can do about it.

He says: "I agree that the Brazilian player has a serious fault today.

"Between getting a free kick and continuing the game, he prefers to get the free kick. It's up to the management of each club to sort this out."

The only thing he says he can do is see that members of the national team behave themselves — "Our committee is going to make sure."

The new president believes that he has already solved his most serious problem, saying: "The big problem was a lack of credibility, which is now starting to improve.

"There was a complete lack of credibility in Brazilian football."

Despite what Teixeira says, however, his administration has already suffered damages to its credibility.

A good deal was lost on the very first day of his leadership, when he broke his first promise.

For months before his election, Teixeira had been saying that if he were chosen, the new national team manager would announce 22 players to form the basis of his squad on the same day as the election. This did not happen.

Instead, a list of 39 players was announced, supposedly selected by the new manager Sebastiao Lazaroni.

Curiously, Lazaroni was in Saudi Arabia at the time and had been for the previous six months.

So unless Lazaroni has telepathic powers, which is unlikely, the list could only have been the work of someone inside the CBF trying to make it look as if Teixeira had fulfilled his promise.

A second blow to the new regime's credibility was struck by the antics of vice-president Eurico Miranda.

Miranda is also a director of the Vasco club and in a recent match involving his team, attempted to run on to the pitch to protest to the referee about the (deserved) sending-off of a Vasco player (imagine Bert Millichip doing this!).

He was stopped by the reserve linesman and a horde of reporters.

"The director's bad example" said one newspaper headline the next day.

Teixeira could have done something about the overcrowding of the Fonte Nova stadium.

As CBF chairman he has the power to intervene in the Bahian federation, something which he has not done.

And he would do his image a

● Continued overleaf

BRAZIL'S CALENDAR

THIS is something Brazilian football has not had for a long time . . . a calendar!

In addition to the domestic events and World Cup qualifying games, the country will also host the South American championship in the first two weeks of July.

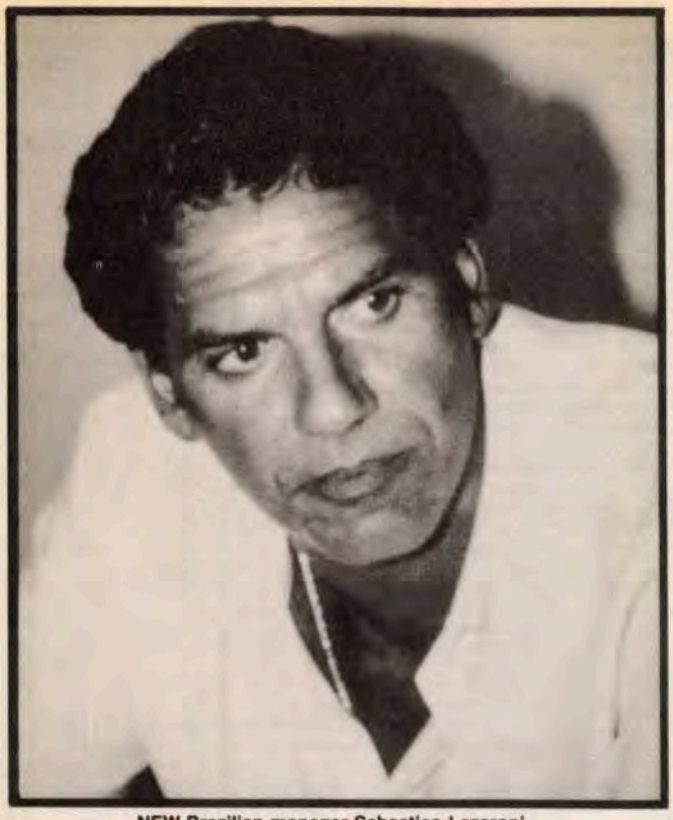
1989

February 5 to June 25: State championships (Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Rio Grande do Sul).
February 5 to September 3: State championships (other states).
July 1 to July 16: South American Cup in Brazil.
July 19 to September 2: Brazil Cup (knockout competition between winners of state championships).
September 7 to December 18: Brazilian championship
December 18: Holidays start (until January 18, 1990)

International Matches

April 12: v Paraguay (friendly, Campo Grande, Brazil)
April 26:v Paraguay (friendly, Asuncion)
May 10: v Peru (friendly, venue to be decided, home)
May 24: v Peru (friendly, Lima)
June 8: v Portugal (75 years of CBF, venue to be decided, home)
June 16: v Sweden (friendly, Copenhagen)
June 18: v Denmark (friendly, Copenhagen)
June 21: v Switzerland (friendly, away)
July 1: v Venezuela (South American Cup)
July 3: v Peru (South American Cup)
July 7: v Colombia (South American Cup)
July 9: v Paraguay (South American Cup)
July 12, 14 & 16: South American Cup second round games if Brazil qualify
July 3O: v Venezuela (World Cup, Caracas)
August 13: v Chile (World Cup, Santiago)
August 20: v Venezuela (World Cup, Sao Paulo)
September 3: v Chile (World Cup, Rio de Janeiro)

EXCLUSIVE ... BRAZILIAN M



NEW Brazilian manager Sebastiao Lazaroni (picture: Juha Tamminen).

W BUS

SEBASTIAO LAZARONI has just sat down in one of the hottest seats in football — that of Brazilian team manager.

In the next 18 months his task will be to win the World Cup and anything less will be regarded as failure in a country which has 140 million would-be national team managers.

Lazaroni was selected by the CBF's new president Ricardo Teixeira, who insists that he will back the manager for the entire duration of his 18 month contract even if things don't go smoothly.

Whether Teixeira keeps his word remains to be seen — very few Brazilian football directors have the guts to stand up to criticism and they look on the change of manager as the easiest way out.

And Lazaroni himself did not confirm Teixeira's claim.

The new manager's first task will be to get Brazil through their tricky qualifying group with Chile and Venezuela.

If he fails to do that he might as well go and live in exile.

Brazilians regard not qualifying for the World Cup in the same way as they regard a nuclear war — the consequences are simply too awful to even think about.

Having said that there are reasons why Lazaroni may be the envy of his European counterparts.

For a start he has some of the world's most naturally gifted players at his disposal.

And what European manager has 15 warm-up games to get things right before the first World Cup match?

Between now and their first qualifying game on July 30, Brazil will play eight international friendlies and seven South American cup games (this competition, which will be held in Brazil in July, is regarded as little more than a warm-up for the

● *Continued from previous page*

world of good if he told his press officer, Roberio Vieira, to be more polite.

Recently Vieira became extremely aggressive with and swore at a reporter for having the audacity to remind him that Teixeira was nearly six hours late for an interview.

There was certainly nothing new about the election which brought Teixeira to power.

As usual, it was preceded by all sorts of wheeling and dealing in which Guimaraes was persuaded not to stand for re- election, leaving Teixeira as the only candidate.

CBF presidents are voted in solely by the presidents of the various state federations and for the week of the election all these presidents had an all-expenses paid week in Rio, staying in a top hotel with their wives, children, cats, dogs, budgerigars, Uncle Tom Cobbly and all.

In the months before the election, Teixeira had borrowed a friend's private jet and gone round all the states of the country's north and north-east handing out footballs, kits and fax machines (which in Brazil cost £3,000 each).

Teixeira's claim was that he was "helping the development of football" in the country's poorer regions.

"It's an indisputable fact that his path to Rua da Alfandega 70 (the CBF headquarters) passed by a large number of favours which materialised in the form of sports equipment and considerable quantities of money," said the magazine Placar.

There has, for all this, been a very slight improvement since January 16. Mind you, things could not possibly have got any worse.

Until January 16, nobody even knew in what periods the national and state championships would be played.

And when the national championship did start the CBF would only announce the fixtures a mere one week in advance. Imagine the confusion this caused.

For the first five months of last year the Brazilian national side virtually ceased to exist.

The contract of manager Carlos Alberto Silva had expired at the end of 1987 and it took Guimaraes and his administration until the beginning of June to renew it, and even then the unfortunate Silva was only given six months.

The federation's finances were neglected and when Teixeira took over it was discovered that the CBF owed US$41,000 to airline companies.

Guimaraes had been well-known for travelling round the world at the CBF's expense.

During 1988 he visited 16 countries as far apart as Australia, Japan, the United States and China, even though on several occasions the Brazilian team (in Holland, Denmark, France and Japan for example) had been nowhere in sight.

On all of these trips he took his wife and son, stayed in five-star hotels and ate in luxury restaurants — all on the CBF.

His justification was that "it is only through travelling that you get to arrange friendlies for the national team in other countries. The CBF lives on the receipts of these games."

Guimaraes was also noted for a passion for ice-cream.

When some of the top clubs threatened to break away from the federation last year and the CBF went into a virtual crisis, he still insisted on his daily dish.

In addition to the airline tickets, it was discovered that the federation owed 44,000 Swiss francs to FIFA (hence a "free" friendly in Switzerland in June) and had already spent US$ 300,000 it had been given by the South American federation for the South American Cup and owed money to some clubs.

The total debt was estimated at between US$ 200,000 and US$ 700,000.

On taking over, Teixeira closed the federation for four days to sort things out.

He says the finances are now "marvellously well."

He also organised a calendar for the next two years and said that there had been "a lack of leadership".

Since he took over, there has been a slight decline in the amount of violence on the field — "I don't think there's much violence in Brazil and I'm speaking as president of the CBF," he said.

"Honestly, I see a lot of violence in Europe as well."

Teixeira attributes this decline in violence to the fact that he has instructed referees to obey FIFA's regulations.

He actually claims that "since January 16, there has not been any violence on Brazilian football fields," but this is highly debatable.

There was all too much violence, for example, in the national championship final between Internacional and Bahia in Porto Alegre recently.

Teixeira points out that Brazil won the fair play trophy in the 1986 World Cup, but this is totally misleading as the players behave far better when they are representing their country.

It is on the national team that Teixeira has put most of his emphasis.

He has appointed Lazaroni as the manager "because as far as we're concerned, he's the best football manager that Brazil has."

He has given Lazaroni an 18-month contract and promises that he will "have the full backing of the federation, even if Brazil don't win the South American cup."

That remains to be seen.

"Now we are very preoccupied with getting Brazil qualified for the World Cup. We have to play two very strong opponents."

He is certain that Brazil will qualify — he has arranged eight friendlies in the next three months to help their preparations — and refuses to even discuss the possibility of failure.

Teixeira plans to apply for Brazil to host the 1998 World Cup — despite the humiliating rejection of their bid for the 1994 competition (the country polled a meagre two votes), despite the country's economic problems and despite the state of the country's pitches and stadia.

He says that financially Brazil has "hyper-conditions" (presumably he was not referring to the US$ 120 billion debt when he said that) to hold the World Cup, the pitches will be improved in time for the South American Cup in July and that the stadia are no worse than anywhere else in the world.

"Of course the pitches are going to improve," he says.

"We simply have to demand that the stadia be adapted for the South American Cup.

"In relation to the stadia, generally we have nearly six months to improve them.

"You have stadia that are not prepared all over the world.

"The principal stadium of Belgium suffered the biggest catastrophe of world football . . . and Wembley dates from 1930 and is made of wood."

Teixeira may be right. Maybe Brazil does have the financial ability and the facilities to host the competition (though it seems unlikely).

But there is something else that FIFA should bear in mind when they eventually decide on the venue.

A country where authorities put people's lives potentially at risk to earn a few extra cruzados and where top members of the football federation run on to the pitch to protest about the referee is not a country fit to hold the World Cup.

NAGER LAZARONI TALKS TO BRIAN HOMEWOOD

ORLD CUP...OR T FOR LAZARONI

qualifying competition), making nearly a game a week.

On the minus side, Lazaroni will only have the European-based players available from June 15 onwards.

Even if Brazil lose to Chile, there will still be some hope.

For some reason or other Chile seem to have been falling foul of FIFA who have, on at least one occasion, threatened them with suspension.

Thirty-nine players have been named as the basis for the squad's preparations, though Lazaroni does not rule out bringing in other players if their form justifies their inclusion.

So far neither Baltazar (the top scorer in Spain at the time of writing) nor Paulinho Cascavel (top scorer in Portugal) have been included in his plans.

Lazaroni has named his first-choice eleven (Taffarel; Jorginho, Julio Cesar, Ricardo, Mazinho; Dunga; Geovani, Tita, Valdo, Renato, Careca) but says it will change according to the players' form and fitness.

He says his team will play the Brazilian way and that he will instruct his players not to use violence, not to try and con the referee, not to waste time and to avoid all the other ridiculous antics they get up to in Brazilian domestic football nowadays.

As a manager Lazaroni has won a hat-trick of Carioca titles, with Flamengo in 1986 and Vasco in 1987 and 1988.

He spent the last six months of last year as manager of Al Ahli in Saudi Arabia, earning what the Brazilian press call "petro-dollars".

As a player he says he was "a goalkeeper of few qualities".

Thirty-eight years old, married with three children, determined and very ambitious, he says: "It was through work that I got to this position and it is through work that I like to survive".

WORLD SOCCER: Were you surprised to be appointed manager of the national team?
LAZARONI: I think that every professional has to have ambitions. Any selection at this level is made on the basis of work already completed, and I think that it was my work which put me in the position of being given this job.

The directors analysed the professionals that were available and decided that I could serve the national team well on the basis of what I have already achieved.

WORLD SOCCER: What do you think about your qualifying group with Chile and Venezuela?
LAZARONI: I see it with difficulty because this is the period of calling up the players and it's difficult to bring together everyone you have in mind.

We have to have a very serious, meticulous and well-planned preparation in order to get through the qualifiers.

WORLD SOCCER: Are you worried about the fact that Brazil lost 4-0 to Chile 18 months ago?
LAZARONI: Everything worries me. Now we have to analyse why it happened and study our opponents so that for the qualifiers we know as much as we possibly can for this event.

WORLD SOCCER: How important is the South American Cup? Is it just a warm-up for the qualifying games?
LAZARONI: For us, the South American Cup represents the same as the European Nations Cup.

WORLD SOCCER: But it is immediately before the qualifying games.
LAZARONI: The South American Cup is played periodically and this time it happened to fall very close to the qualifiers.

It will be a preparation, because today we have a situation in which a lot of good Brazilian players are abroad and therefore we don't have a long time to prepare.

So the South American Cup, even though it is a strong event, will have to have as its objective the preparation for the qualifiers.

WORLD SOCCER: Baltazar was not among the 39 players you have named but he is the top scorer in Spain.
LAZARONI: If we thought about names all the time, with Brazil being a football country and a country the size of a continent, we would have a lot of players.

We have to establish 22 or 23 players and work with them.

WORLD SOCCER: How are Brazil going to play under your leadership? Are you going to try and adopt a European system or are you going to play the Brazilian way?
LAZARONI: I think we should preserve our technical and creative ability and respect our individual qualities, but bearing in mind that football demands good training and the best-possible preparation.

I think we should respect the Brazilian way of playing — in 1982 we had an excellent example of the Brazilian qualities and we have to look for these again now, but adding a little bit extra.

We have to respect our roots and our qualities.

WORLD SOCCER: What did you think about last year's European championship?
LAZARONI: I was very impressed. It seems that today in all of Europe, there exists far more concern for technical ability than for physical strength and this will improve the quality of the game still more in the future.

WORLD SOCCER: Are you going to try out the 3-5-2 system that exists in Europe?
LAZARONI: Maybe, depending on the moment and the situation that arises. But not yet.

WORLD SOCCER: Some people claim that physically and tactically the Brazilians are inferior to the Europeans.
LAZARONI: I think that football today at international level is very equal and I don't think what you say is true.

WORLD SOCCER: What do you think about the man-to-man marking system that is used a lot in Europe?
LAZARONI: The Argentinians use man-to-man marking with a sweeper, the Italians too.

I think the ideal thing would be to have a team that can carry out this system but also have a way of escaping from this type of marking.

WORLD SOCCER: In Brazilian football today there is a lot of violence on the pitch, the players behave badly, they try to con the referee.
LAZARONI: Yes, malice, trying to gain a momentary advantage. But our objective is to play as much as possible in the 90 minutes and I think this is what the public expect.

WORLD SOCCER: In Brazil you often see a player fall over as soon as he gets inside the penalty area.
LAZARONI: I agree with what you say. But it's not something which the manager of the Brazilian team has to be worried about.

And you have to see whether this type of thing is punished — in the final (of the Copa Uniao), the referee was very good.

WORLD SOCCER: Are you going to attempt to keep this type of acting out of the Brazilian national team? Are you going to speak to the players about this?
LAZARONI: Of course we have to try and play as much football as possible in the 90 minutes.

We have to play cleanly but also hard, like men. Football is a game of direct contact, but a contact which must not be malicious.

WORLD SOCCER: Referees in the World Cup are stronger than the referees here in Brazil. Will this cause problems?
LAZARONI: Within the national team we are going to try and establish work related to referees, the behaviour of the players.

I think this is important at the level of the Brazilian national team.

WORLD SOCCER: Who do you think will be Brazil's biggest rivals if they qualify for the finals in Italy?
LAZARONI: For the time being, I will apologise for not being able to answer this question because I'm still thinking about the qualifying games.

Afterwards I will start thinking about the World Cup in Italy.

WORLD SOCCER: Is there a big difference between being a football manager in Brazil and in Saudi Arabia?
LAZARONI: You only go there on the basis of the work that you have done here, and because of the respect they have for Brazilian football.

It's a different region, with different customs, peculiarities in the competition itself, the rules of the games.

But you have to adapt to this situation.

WORLD SOCCER: Here in Brazil there's a lot of pressure on the national team manager because everyone has their own opinion. Does this worry you?
LAZARONI: This is normal. So you have to stick with your ideas, with the people you are working with and establish barriers which stop you from being influenced by these pressures.

WORLD SOCCER: Do you think you will have the same support from the CBF that Carlos Bilardo had from the Argentinian Federation before the 1986 World Cup? Everybody wanted him out before the cup, the federation backed him to the end and it worked out. Do you think you will have this backing from the CBF?
LAZARONI: Up until now it seems I do, but obviously I know that the results of my work will be important.

WORLD SOCCER: Argentina lost to Norway but the AFA stuck by Bilardo.
LAZARONI: And they won the World Cup, it was an excellent example.

KOHLER MOVE UNDER REVIEW

SOME of West Germany's leading clubs and top international players stand accused of having participated in illegal transfer deals in the latest scandal to rock the Bundesliga.

The country's best defender, Koln's international stopper Jurgen Kohler, who is joining Bayern Munich as from next season; the international striker Dieter Eckstein, who was sold by 1.FC Nurnberg to Eintracht Frankfurt; and Hamburg's midfielder Thomas Von Heesen, whose proposed transfer to Frankfurt had unexpectedly fallen through, are all having their moves investigated by the DFB (FA).

Suspicions have been raised that in certain cases, agents were involved in arranging the change of clubs for these players and have collected, or are to collect, a commission which is against the law in West Germany.

In fact, one article of the Federal Republic's judicial legislation states quite clearly: "The organising of transfer of a professional footballer for profit counts as procuring a job. Individual professional advice, negotiating another occupational position, or finding employment for others can only be conducted by a government run centre."

The penalties for breaking the law can be a fine of up to £10,000, or in a case of a foreign player without a work permit, a jail sentence of up to three years!

Of course, the clubs and the players are also risking hefty fines and suspension if caught fiddling.

There are apparently some 20 agents in West Germany who officially call themselves "consultants" and make a living out of buying and selling footballers.

But the DFB intends to prove that at least two such agents — the former international goalkeeper Wolfgang Fahrian, who "advised" Kohler on his move to Bayern, and Holger Klemme, the "consultant" of Dieter Eckstein — have knowingly

BY PENTI HIETANEN

EAST GERMANY'S eternal quest for success in international soccer continues with national coach Bernd Stange being replaced by former international sweeper Manfred Zapf.

Stange's departure was always on the cards. His five years in charge were hardly filled with success.

The straw that broke the camel's back was the 3-1 World Cup defeat in Turkey last November.

Stange had to carry the can for what could be politely called an inept showing by some of the country's senior players. East Germany can ill-afford any more failures.

They have been absent from all the game's big events since the Moscow Olympics of 1980.

Indeed, not even Olympic football can any longer guarantee success for Eastern bloc countries with the arrival of western professionals in the competition.

Managing East Germany's national team has become an awkward business ever since the celebrated Georg Buschner left in 1981 after a ten-year spell.

For example, Stange's predecessor, Dr Rudolf Krause, lasted only two years.

Perhaps Stange was too articulate, too considerate a man for this sort of tooth-and-nail challenge.

The Gnaschwitz-born Stange never made the headlines as a defender with minor clubs such as Chemie Gnaschwitz, Vorwarts Bautzen and HSG Leipzig.

He took to coaching at the age of 23 in 1971 and made rapid progress to become coach of Carl Zeiss Jena in the East German top division, the 'Oberliga'.

After spending two seasons as the country's under-21 coach in 1978-80, Stange was invited to assist Buschner and to take over the Olympic side.

His work for the Los Angeles Olympics was undermined by the Eastern bloc boycott but Stange had shown enough tactical guile to be appointed as the national supremo in 1984.

But not even the patience of Stange could reverse the trend as one disappointment followed another.

Perhaps, looking back, he showed too much loyalty to some of the more experienced members of the national squad . . . a pitfall into which the newly-appointed Zapf does not want to fall.

Zapf's message to his players is clear: "Deliver the goods, or go!"

The former Magdeburg skipper showed that he means business by orchestrating a thorough purge in the squad that flopped so badly in Turkey.

Among the spectacular victims of the Zapf iron hand have been the big, bearded FC Magdeburg sweeper Dirk Stahmann, midfielder Hans-Uwe Pilz from Dynamo Dresden, and Dynamo Berlin's Rainer Ernst.

Ernst is still only 27, but perhaps Zapf has detected battle- weariness in the player, who made his full international debut back in November, 1981, in the 5-1 win over Malta in Jena.

And Ernst, talented as he may be, has always been notoriously injury-prone and unreliable.

He can look great one day, then fade in the heat of battle.

Ernst is one of those domestic kings of Dynamo BFC, who have won everything in sight in their native land, but who have flopped year after year in Europe.

Zapf's 'get tough' policy seemed to work right away when his first match in charge brought a convincing 4-0 away win in Egypt.

And what was even more heartwarming in that result was the fact that the goals were shared by Dresden's Ulf Kirsten and Dynamo Berlin's Andreas Thom.

Zapf has here a potential world-class striking partnership that would grace most national sides in Europe.

Thom's talent has been obvious for years already and he is now back to his best after a troublesome season in 1987-88 which saw him score only once in eight full international matches.

Thom has an outstanding footballing brain, while Kirsten relies more on his blistering pace to get past defenders.

One of the biggest problems for Zapf must be the tactical backwardness of East Germany's league sides.

For years, the local teams have fielded their players as if there had been absolutely no tactical evolution in football since the early 1970's.

It has always been the good old 1-3-3-3 with a steady sweeper behind three man-marking defenders.

But in this respect, too, we may have seen some evidence of a change, notably in the way current league leaders Dynamo Dresden have been playing.

Perhaps their shrewd coach Eduard Geyer is just the man to try and implant those new ideas that he has drawn from the more flexible modern playing styles of West German and Dutch teams.

Dresden have produced some of the best football seen for some time in the Oberliga and their powerful run in Europe is certainly no fluke.

Not surprisingly, Dresden's players also form the nucleus of the 'new' East Germany put out by Zapf.

Reaching the World Cup finals in Italy next year should not be beyond this side.

The Soviet Union are clear favourites to win Group 3 but the Germans will only have themselves to kick if they fail to top Austria, Turkey and Iceland.

But Zapf knows better than most that there are no easy ties in European football.

In June, 1975, Zapf was there as a player when East Germany, only a year after appearing in the World Cup finals, lost 2-1 to Iceland in a European Championship match.

That defeat dented the confidence of a useful German side. And what's more, it effectively ended the full international career of a certain Manfred Zapf.

You are not likely to forget a lesson like that in a hurry.

Especially, when the cold, windy fields of Reykjavik will be waiting for Zapf once again next September.

THE MANAGER

Manfred ZAPF. Aged 42 (born August 24, 1946). A former international sweeper, Zapf started his career playing for his hometown club Dynamo Stapelburg in 1955. Moved on to Magdeburg in 1962, representing the club in 327 Oberliga matches (28 goals). Zapf influenced Magdeburg to three league titles (1972, 1974 and 1975) and to five victories in the DDR Cup. He was also the captain of the blue-and-whites when they became the only East German side so far to win a major international competition when they beat Italy's Milan, coached then by the great Giovanni Trapattoni, 2-0 in the 1974 final of the Cup Winners' Cup in Rotterdam. The highlight of Zapf's international career was finishing third at the Munich Olympics in 1972. Bowed out from the national team after the infamous 2-1 defeat by Iceland in Reykjavik in June, 1975. After retiring from playing, Zapf firstly became a technical director of Magdeburg (1979-80) and then a member of the club board (1980-83). Later an assistant secretary of the DFV, the East German federation, in charge of the country's youth coaching, and, since May, 1986, the chief director of coaching. Replaced Bernd Stange as the national manager after East Germany's disastrous 1-3 World Cup defeat in Turkey last November.

THE PLAYERS

Rene MULLER. Goalkeeper. Aged 30 with 44 caps. Lokomotive Leipzig. Thought to be among the cream of Europe's keepers, but was sensationally dropped from the national team due to some unconvincing showings in the league earlier this season. Now back to something like his former

from ARTHUR ROTMIL

organised the transfers because they were benefitting financially from the deal, while Klemme nearly made a killing from orchestrating the move of Von Heesen.

The officials of the DFB are convinced that many of these agents deliberately push the players into changing clubs because they're only interested in cashing in.

It is generally accepted that an agent can claim between 10 to 15 per cent of the transfer fee for himself.

Since Kohler cost Bayern around £1 million, Herr Fahrian can earn between £100,000 and £150,000 from this single transaction. Payment is usually made after the contracts have been signed by cheque or in cash.

When a player is given notice by his club that he is no longer wanted, or refuses to accept a new offer, and the deadline is April 1, then he has three options:

* He can offer his services to another club, but would usually make little on such a deal.

* He can go to the job centre, where they would probably laugh at him, for they have no operational facilities to negotiate a transfer for him.

* Or he could place himself on the DFB's official transfer list (which in any case is obligatory there) and wait for offers. But then he is still mainly dependent on an agent. If he finds a totally honest one, then he is lucky.

Apparently, the majority of these shady operators are only interested if there is a generous cut for them. Many of them start off with a lie.

They have neither a club nor a player in sight. So they ring a club and say: "I represent a player, are you interested?"

If they are, then he 'phones the player and claims he represents the club!

He then wants to make sure he is present at the transfer negotiations so that he can collect his commission. Thus the agents only conduct transactions with clubs who pay them.

Other offers for the player are kept secret, or the footballer is persuaded that this move would not be in his interest.

Shady

Willie Lemke, the business manager of champions Werder Bremen, also accuses other shady figures who line-up to clean-up on the transfer deal — tax consultants, property entrepreneurs, stocks and shares dealers and insurance agents.

They all want to make money for themselves when a footballer changes clubs.

"They acquire the players' trust with only one aim — to fill their own pockets.

"It is different when one deals with talent scouts. These people work very hard to discover youngsters and thus help the club. Any money they receive is well-earned", says Lemke.

The President of the DFB Hermann Neuberger warns that practically every young player already has a personal consultant and manager.

"I see a great danger ahead if we don't stop these agents before they ruin the game. But if the clubs can agree a transfer then it would not be necessary to admit these outside negotiators," he says.

The business of agents was invented by Dr. Otto George Ratz in 1956.

The Hungarian-born lawyer, then domiciled in Munich, hit on the idea of organising transfers when, following the Hungarian uprising, scores of their top footballers like Puskas, Kocsis and Czibor became stranded in the West. But he claims he was never accused of dishonesty.

Now several German agents are asking the DFB to issue them with licences so they can follow their profession decently and lawfully.

ZAPF AND GO FOR GERMANS

self, but is no longer the captain of his country. Started with Aktivist Markkleeberg and joined Lok Leipzig in 1970. Made his full international debut in February, 1984, in the 3-1 win over Greece in Athens. East Germany's Player of the Year in 1986.

Jorg WEISSFLOG. Goalkeeper. Aged 32 with 13 caps. Wismut Aue. Has spent most of his full international career shadowing Muller ever since he made his full international debut against Mexico in a 1-1 draw at Jahn-Sportpark in East Berlin in August, 1984. The safe handling of blond Weissflog helped Wismut to secure a place in the 'Oberliga' last season as the side's forwards ran out of goals.

Frank ROHDE. Sweeper/defender. Aged 29 with 39 caps (1 goal). Dynamo BFC. A Rostock-born defender, who has, however, represented Dynamo Berlin for the last 20 years and is currently the club captain. Has also played in midfield, but is now a calming influence at 'libero', replacing the vastly-experienced Dirk Stahmann in Zapf's plans for the national team. Has been a mainstay in Dynamo's incredible run of ten consecutive league championships in 1979-88. Won his first cap in September, 1979, in the 1-0 win over Greece in Zwickau. Rohde's brothers Peter and Rainer were also noteworthy 'Oberliga' players.

Andreas TRAUTMANN. Stopper. Aged 29 with 10 caps. Dynamo Dresden. One of the 'faceless' men of the league scene, Trautmann's improved form for Dresden this season, not least in the UEFA Cup, has won over critics — and Zapf. A hard-man rather than a ball-player, Trautmann has given excellent service to the Saxon club over the years.

Ronald KREER. Right-back. Aged 29 with 58 caps (2 goals). Lokomotive Leipzig. Now one of the elder statesmen of the side, Kreer is renowned for his consistency. Has played all his first-team career for his hometown club, Lokomotive, after joining them in 1971.

Matthias LINDNER. Stopper. Aged 23 with 9 caps. Lokomotive Leipzig. One of the defensive specialists who normally gives such a solid look to Leipzig's Railwaymen.

Detlef SCHOSSLER. Right-back. Aged 26 with 15 caps. Magdeburg. Has been in and out of the national team for the past three years, apparently unable to replace Kreer on a permanent basis.

Matthias DOSCHNER. Left-back/midfield. Aged 31 with 34 caps. Dresden. One of East Germany's old guard, whose experience could prove vital in the coming World Cup qualifying ties. Doschner is slim, but tough, and does almost everything left-footed.

Heiko SCHOLZ. Midfield. Aged 23 with 5 caps. Lokomotive Leipzig. One of the fresh faces brought in by Zapf.

Jorg STUBNER. Midfield. Aged 23 with 36 caps (1 goal). Dynamo Dresden. At 23, already something of a veteran, having made his full international debut at the age of 19 in the 5-0 win over Luxemburg in Esch in November, 1984.

Jens WAHL. Midfield. Aged 22 with 1 cap. Hansa Rostock One of the newcomers to the squad, capped by Zapf in the 4-0 away win over Egypt.

Damian HALATA. Midfield. Aged 26 with 3 caps. Lokomotive Leipzig. Joined Lokomotive from FC Magdeburg last summer and hit the headlines when he scored five goals in a league game against Sachsenring.

Matthias SAMMER. Midfield. Aged 21 with 9 caps (1 goal). Dynamo Dresden. A tricky dribbler, whose father was also a national team player as well as the coach of Dresden.

Thomas DOLL. Attack. Aged 23 with 15 caps (2 goals). Dynamo BFC. A fast forward with plenty of power, but only a stand-in for the Kirsten-Thom duo. However, forms a deadly trio with Ernst and Thom for Dynamo, who he joined in 1986 from Hansa Rostock. First came to prominence during the Nehru tournament of 1986, in India.

Andreas THOM. Attack. Aged 23 with 42 caps (15 goals). Dynamo BFC. The current star of East Germany and one of the most gifted forwards in Europe at the moment. Thom (born 7.9.65 in Rudersdorf) joined Dynamo Berlin as a junior in 1974. Made his 'Oberliga' debut during the 1983-84 season and wore the colours of his country for the first time in October, 1984, in a 5-3 win over Algeria in Aue. Was the top scorer of East Germany's qualifying group for the 1988 European Championships, with five, and last season also topped the charts in the league with 20.

Ulf KIRSTEN. Attack. Aged 23 with 35 caps (9 goals). Dynamo Dresden. Born in Leipzig-Gohlis on December 1965, the incisive Kirsten is a perfect foil for the more inventive Thom. Nominally a right-winger, but with a nose for goals, Kirsten proved his class by hitting four in seven European Championship ties.

AUSSIES FALL TO

AUSTRALIA . . . from LES MURRAY

BONI GINSBURG, the Israeli goalkeeper soon to leave his club Betar Jerusalem for Queens Park Rangers, summed it up best.

"We knew Australia had been beaten by Fiji," he said. "And good teams don't get beaten by Fiji. We knew then they were vulnerable."

With those succinct, parting words, Ginsburg and his colleagues left Australia probably for good, having broken the Australian hoodoo at last and winning the small, but immensely competitive Oceania World Cup qualifying group.

It is unlikely that the classic Australia-Israel confrontations, of which we have seen six in the past five years and 17 since 1969, will take place again.

Soccer's political manouvres in Zurich suggest that Israel will be grouped with European teams in future World Cups.

The 1-1 draw in Sydney between Australia and Israel, in front of a record Australian World Cup crowd of 40,000, was the final game in the Oceania series — a dramatic decider in which Israel needed a draw and Australia a win.

Now it is Israel, and not pre-start favourites Australia, who will try and cross the final hurdle, against either Colombia, Paraguay or Ecuador, for the right to be one of the 24 in Italy.

Such is the lot of Oceania, always a mish-mash qualifying group which in the recent past has included the political undesirables of Israel and Taiwan.

And even then, because the group is numerically too small to warrant an automatic qualifier, the winner faces a further barricade: a 'first world' nation, such as Scotland in 1985 and the South Americans this time.

Indeed, the only Oceanian entrant for Italia '90, apart from Australia and New Zealand, was tiny Fiji whom the Australians beat comfortably on aggregate even if they did suffer a shock away 1-0 defeat to the amateur islanders in their first game last November.

New Zealand, in their corresponding preliminary round, did the job comfortably on Taiwan, 8-1 on aggregate with both matches played on New Zealand soil, the price the Taiwanese had to pay for not being part of Oceania.

Israel then joined Australia and New Zealand for the next round of home and away matches, a fiercely competitive series steeped in tradition.

Each of the three countries has made it to the finals once and have often crossed each other's path in the process. Each looks on the other two as old and hated rivals.

The first match, between Israel and New Zealand in Tel Aviv, was mediocre by Israeli expectations and no more than courageous from New Zealand's viewpoint.

Israel's 1-0 win, from a goal by Standard Liege striker Roni Rosenthal, brought fireworks from local press, aimed at the unique twin coaching partnership of Yitzak Schneor and Yaakov Grundman.

The standing local joke was that, seeing the Israelis couldn't top Australia's wily Frank Arok with one coach, they brought in two.

But S and G, as they are now affectionately known in Israel, would have the last laugh even though they were put under more pressure by the next result: a walloping 4-1 win in Sydney by Australia against a meek, largely jet-lagged and under-prepared New Zealand.

The Aussies, falsely impressive as it turned out, gave a classy, polished display without their European-based big guns save for skipper and PAOK Salonica sweeper Charlie Yankos.

So the Australians arrived bubbling with confidence in Tel Aviv for the first real showdown of the series.

By then, Frank Arok had recruited two of his Belgium-based stars, Anderlecht's goal machine Eddie Krncevic and speedy striker Frank Farina of Club Bruges.

The Aussies came for a draw in the hotbed of the Ramat Gan

THAI CUP TRIU

from BOB PATEMAN

THE King's Cup in Thailand, one of the major events in the Asian circuit, celebrated its 20th year with a rare home victory.

There was a good entry with teams from South Korea, China, Russia and Switzerland, although not all were at full strength.

China, for example, had the national team in Hong Kong and were represented by the Liaoning provincial team.

That side achieved some reasonable results including a 1-0 win over Thailand B, thanks to a goal from Xu Hui, and a goalless draw with the Soviet Union team. As a result the Chinese were able to edge holders Denmark out of the semi-finals.

Thailand were in the second group and victories over Malaysia, Indonesia and Switzerland saw them go through to the last four despite a predictable defeat to South Korea.

Thailand proved too strong for the China selection in the semi-finals, and they scored a goal in each half while the Soviet Union edged South Korea 1-0.

The Thais were delighted to see Korea out of the competition and a full and noisy crowd were confident for the final.

Indeed they were comfortable 3-1 winners with striker Piyapong Piew-On, later voted the best player in the tournament, scoring twice.

He gave the crowd a scare, however, when he went off with a second-half injury.

Fortunately the star was back for the World Cup tie with Bangladesh in which he scored the only goal.

Two points from an away game was a good start and at that point the Thai team looked capable of causing a surprise or two.

CHINA: With an Olympic appearance under their belts, China came home from two opening World Cup games with four points safely in the bag.

Their campaign started in Guangzhou where they struggled against Bangladesh.

After a worrying goalless first-half Wang Baoshan opened the scoring with a 50th minute goal and Mai Chao made it two a few minutes later with a well taken free kick. Then came the visit to Bangkok.

Once again, the side looked unsettled in the first half and on occasions Thailand threatened them with fast breaks.

However, the better prepared and fitter Chinese wore their opponents down and this time it was Tang Yaodong who opened the scoring after good work from Baoshan and Yuxin.

Soon afterwards Ma Lin replaced Yugoslav-based Liu Hauguang, and he instantly brought new life to the attack, sliding in to knock the ball home for the second goal and then sealing the match with the third.

The Chinese, though, will be well aware that the real rivals in this group are Iran who have recorded very similar results, beating Thailand 3-0 and Bangladesh 2-1.

BRUNEI: Few nations anywhere can be more sport-minded than the people of Brunei.

Rich from oil, the kingdom has magnificent facilities. The Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium could, for example, fit in a 40,000 crowd which would be a fifth of the total population of the nation.

Because of the small population, sports tend to have a short season, hockey will give way to football to basketball in rapid succession often with the same faces reappearing for each season.

As a result, there are a large number of men who play football as a recreational sport but relatively few who can be termed serious players.

The Football Association of Brunei, which was founded in 1959, claims less than 30 registered clubs that play the full September to March season.

The top club are the Royal Armed Forces who have played in the preliminary rounds of the Asian Championships.

The national team have, not surprisingly, had little success despite several foreign coaches being brought out to work with them.

The highlight of the season is the Merdeka Games played at the end of March.

Most of the visiting nations such as Indonesia and Malaysia usually send 'B' teams which has allowed the home side to perform with reasonable distinction.

Brunei also enter the World Cup, Asian and South East Asian championships.

The Merlion Cup in Singapore is another favourite venue for the team although they seldom have the opportunity to celebrate even an occasional victory.

NORTH KOREA: North Korea face some diplomatic fencing with Hong Kong in the coming weeks.

The trouble all started when the Koreans were unable to get visas to attend a planned New Year tournament that had to be cancelled.

Now, with the two sides due to play each other in the World Cup, the argument looks like continuing.

The Hong Kong immigration department, with strict guidelines about admitting citizens of communist nations, has requested that the names of the Korean squad be submitted three months in advance and that the party is limited to 22.

Korea, however, perhaps justifiably, wish to keep their options open and have requested a 25-man party to be named a month

ISRAEL

Stadium, reverberating with a never ending stanza of parochial noise from 45,000 Israelis eager for revenge.

Israel had not been able to beat Australia in eight previous meetings and fell to the Aussies in both the previous World Cup and Olympic qualifiers.

The outcome, a 1-1 draw and a precious home point dropped, was not what the Israeli press had in mind and gave Schneor and Grundman a bucketful in the post-match press conference.

Indeed, Australia dominated the first-half and went behind in the second only with a dubious penalty.

A shot from midfielder Moshe Sinai ricocheted off the foot of Aussie midfielder Alan Davidson and onto his hand.

Local pin-up boy Eli Ohana, in dispute and on the outside with his Belgian club Mechelen, converted the kick after a nervy Sinai refused to take it.

The goal came at the end of 25 minutes of furious pressure from the Israelis.

The Australians reacted with their own fury and had the ball in the net five minutes later, a superbly taken free kick curled around the wall by Yankos.

So the Australians went home, now three points to the good and with a splendid goal difference of 5-2. But their joy, and favouritism, was soon to end in, unlikely, New Zealand.

If Europe has its England-Scotland and Hungary-Austria type rivalries, there is one at the Antipodean end of the world, too, in the shape of the Australia-New Zealand battles.

Little New Zealand playing big, pompous, big brother Australia can be a most uncomfortable opponent and in this case a source of doom for the Aussies.

For the return clash of the two in Auckland, the New Zealanders mustered all their underdog resolve and beat big brother 2-0.

Grappling desperately with New Zealand's rugged and spoiling tactics, the Australians were shown up as a team less than ready to walk away with the group.

More importantly, the result gave Israel a reprieve and even gave New Zealand, now on two points from three games, a distant chance of qualifying.

Now it was time for the pocket calculators and what each team would need from the remaining two matches: New Zealand v Israel and Australia v Israel.

The New Zealanders wanted a win by a least three goals from their remaining match against Israel and then hope for a 0-0 draw in Sydney between the Aussies and Israel.

The Israelis wanted a hefty win, too, to put the group out of Australia's reach.

The Aussies, for once, wanted New Zealand to win but not too well.

As it happened, the two drew 2-2 in Auckland, a score which put the Kiwis out and guaranteed that the group outcome would be decided in a dramatic final match in Sydney.

There is nothing like the World Cup, even in rugby crazy Australia, and the splendid new Sydney Football Stadium was filled to its capacity of 40,000 with an estimated five to ten thousand extra fans spilling in.

Frank Arok and his Socceroos, now behind the eight ball for the first time, again brought back Farina and Krncevic and even sent an SOS to Chelsea's struggling striker David Mitchell.

All three big, bulky and fast, it looked a mean strike force and the tipping went for the needed Aussie win, given that in the past the Socceroos had been at their best coming from a loss and with their backs to the wall.

But Arok and his men didn't count on Israel's own level of mental and physical toughness and

● Continued overleaf

BONI GINSBURG ... set for QPR.

MPH

before they fly in.

The club clash between April 25 and Seiko ran into similar problems in 1985 and had to be postponed.

With the World Cup fixtures running to a tight schedule, any change risks the anger of FIFA.

IRAQ: It did not make headlines around the world but Iraq's defeat in the World Cup first round group was perhaps the biggest shock so far.

The Iraq side had, after all, already gained World Cup experience and this group, consisting of Qatar, Jordan and Oman, did not look particularly strong.

Things went wrong in the early stages when Iraq dropped a silly point to Oman and lost to Qatar.

This meant they went into the final match a point behind but remained the favourites. However, a goal by Saleh al Led after just 18 minutes put Qatar ahead and silenced the 43,000 crowd.

Indeed, Qatar, a tiny nation that has worked so hard to develop its youth soccer, generally looked the better team.

Emotion, however, counts as much as skill in this game and Iraq drew level before half-time thanks to Ahmed Radhi and then went ahead through Hussein Saeed.

With just thirteen minutes to play, Iraq seemed home and dry but then Abdel Khanees scored to tie the game and end Iraq's World Cup dreams for another four years.

OCEANIA AT A GLANCE

Sunday, March 5
Israel 1 (Rosenthal 7)
New Zealand 0
Ramat Gan Stadium, Tel Aviv
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Muhmentahaler (Sw).
Israel: Ginsburg — A. Cohen, Amar, Alon, Pizanti — Davidi, Klinger, Sinai, Rosenthal — Ohana, Drieks (Atar).
New Zealand: Gosling — Herbert, Mason, Lund, Evans — Dunford, Halligan (Levy), Riley, Barkley — W. Rufer, McLennan (Witteveen).

Sunday March 12
Australia 4 (Arnold 42, 55, Crino 15, Yankos pen 77)
New Zealand 1 (Dunford 70)
Sydney Football Stadium
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 13,621. **Ref:** Takada (Jap).
Australia: Oliver — Yankos (Koczka), Savor, Calderan, Wade — Davidson, Crino, Petersen, Spink (Slater) — Arnold, Ollerenshaw.
New Zealand: Gosling — Lund, Evans, Herbert, Dunford — Mason, Halligan (Deveham), Riley, Witteveen — McLennan, Barkley.

Sunday, March 19
Israel 1 (Ohana pen 67)
Australia 1 (Yankos 72)
Ramat Gan Stadium, Tel Aviv.
HT: 0-0. **Att.** 50,000. **Ref:** Neumer (WG).
Israel: Ginsburg — Amar, Iluz, Alon, Klinger — Sinai, Davidi (E.Cohen), A Cohen, Pizanti (Drieks) — Rosenthal, Ohana.
Australia: Oliver — Yankos, Savor, Calderan, Wade — Davidson, Crino, Petersen, Krncevic — Arnold, Farina (Jennings).

Sunday, April 4
New Zealand 2 (Dunford 19, Wright 80)
Australia 0
Mt Smart Stadium, Auckland
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Ben Singah (Singapore).
New Zealand: Gosling — Herbert, Lund, Dunford (Halligan), Ridenton — Mason, Ironside, Wright, Barkley — McClennan (Levy), De Jong.
Australia: Oliver — Yankos, Calderan (Koczka), Van Egmond, Wade — Davidson, Crino, Petersen (Slater), Spink — Arnold, Ollerenshaw.

Sunday, April 9
New Zealand 2 (Wright 19, Dunford 35)
Israel 2 (Rosenthal 16, Klinger 37)
Mt Smart Stadium, Auckland
Ht: 2-2. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Boulliet (Fr)
New Zealand: Gosling — Herbert, Ridenton (Halligan), Lund, Mason — Dunford, Ironside, Barkley, Wright — Riley (Levy), De Jong.
Israel: Ginsburg — Amar, Iluz, Alon, A.Cohen — Davidi, Sinai, Klinger (Ohana), Pizanti (Parselani) — Tikhva, Rosenthal.

Sunday, April 16
Australia 1 (Trimboli 88)
Israel 1 (Ohana 40)
Sydney Football Stadium
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Longhi (It)
Australia: Oliver — Yankos, Savor, Van Egmond, Wade (Petersen) — Arnold, Crino, Farina (Trimboli), — Mitchell, Krncevic.
Israel: Ginsburg — A.Cohen, Parselani, Alon, Amar — Tikhva, (Aharoni), Davidi, Sinai, Klinger — Rosenthal, Ohana.

COSTA RICA TEST

from PAUL GARDNER

NEW YORK — In 1985, the USA seemed well on the way to a place in the World Cup finals in Mexico. All it needed — to enter the final CONCACAF qualifying round — was a draw in a home game against Costa Rica.

And everyone knew that the Costa Ricans were in disarray. After dropping a home point to the USA, they had completely re-organised their team.

So they came up to Torrance, California . . . and eliminated the US with a 1-0 victory.

That was four years ago. This time, the USA — along with El Salvador, Guatemala, Trinidad & Tobago and Costa Rica — have advanced to the final CONCACAF qualifying round.

On the American side, a lot has happened since 1985 — most of it positive.

The US players are now more experienced, they have a new coach, their preparation is unquestionably better, they play more games . . . and they have been winning more games. But they still have to play pesky little Costa Rica.

On the Costa Rican side, it looks like business as usual.

After losing 0-1 away to Guatemala in March, they fired their coach, and then scraped an unconvincing 2-1 home win in the return tie against the Guatemalans.

When the US team departed for Costa Rica last month for their first qualifying game, it was a very confident team indeed. They had watched tapes of Costa Rica, and were not impressed.

Top USSF officials were predicting a 2-0 win for the USA. What they got was a 0-1 loss.

Certainly not a major disaster — there are seven more games to come, and two of the five teams will go to Italy. So the USA's chances are still extremely good, despite the questionable condition of two top players.

Rick Davis, the captain and by far the most experienced player on the team, has undergone two recent bouts of arthroscopic surgery. At the age of 30, he doesn't heal quite as quickly as he used to.

Long-term healing also seems to be a problem for the 25-year- old Hugo Perez, the team's playmaker and by general acclaim its most dangerous player.

Last July, during the USA's tour of France, he was used sparingly as a substitute as he was suffering from a stress- fracture of his leg.

Two months later, still not fit, he came on as a substitute and inspired a vital win over Jamaica in a preliminary round World Cup qualifying game.

Last month he was still not fit, and didn't even make the trip to Costa Rica.

PRO Soccer? The Eagles Are Grounded. You can almost bet your life on it — that the American soccer scene will be misinterpreted by the rest of the world.

No doubt there's logic in that — Americans have enough trouble trying to get it right themselves, so what chance do foreigners have?

There was a prime example of this confusion last month when the two leagues — the Western Soccer League (WSL) and the American Soccer League (ASL) — announced that they were considering a merger.

This evidently sounded like a big deal to the BBC World Service which spread the news far and wide that "the two rival leagues had decided to settle their differences" and merge.

What stands in the way of that making any sense at all is simple geography.

The ASL plays on the East Coast, while the WSL is in operation 3000 miles away on the West Coast. And up till now, the twain has not only not met, but has scarcely bothered to notice each other's existence.

Why on earth should they? They don't draw on the same fans, or the same players — both use local talent — and neither is in the running for a national television contract.

There is in short, no rivalry at all. Except in the sense that people are curious to see whether the calibre of play is better in the East or the West.

That's all — and that could be settled by the planned game between the two champions in September.

As yet, they're not calling it Soccer Bowl — that was the name the old NASL used for its championship game — but no doubt that will come.

A single game is one thing — but a merger of the two leagues?

On the face of it, that ought to be something that the United States Soccer Federation would warmly embrace. Because it would appear to be another step towards the USSF's elaborate plan for the creation of a national pro league.

But the announcement of the proposed merger (to take effect in 1992) came unaccompanied by any kind words from the USSF.

The caution displayed by the USSF on this occasion is justified.

They are troubled by leagues that have yet to establish any real indentity in their own regions, or to prove financial stability, yet are already talking about expanding nationwide.

One of the main reasons why the ASL and WSL started as regional leagues is to keep down the enormous expense of coast- to-coast travel that a national league inevitable entails.

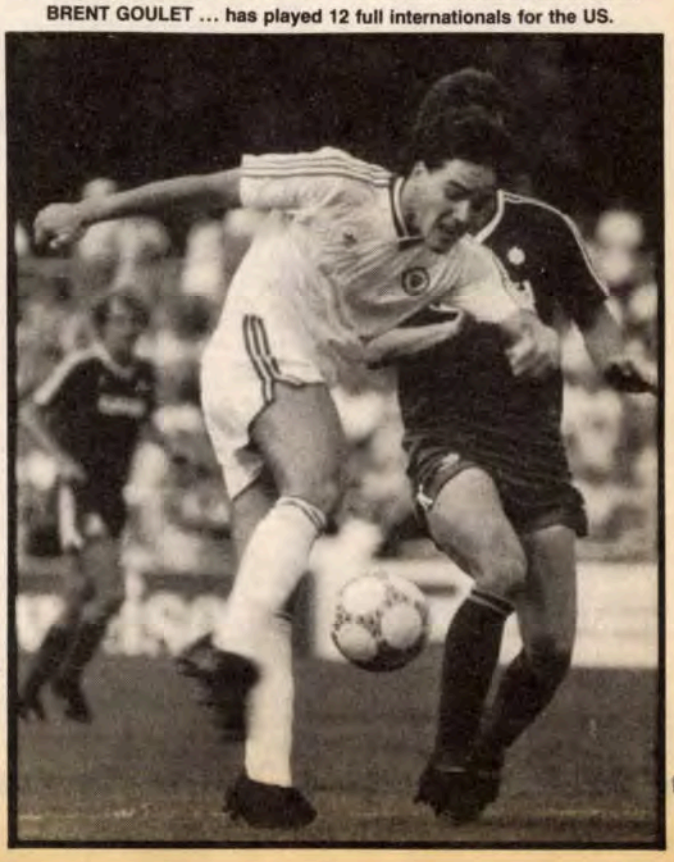
There are other reasons to doubt that these leagues are ready to move into the world of big-time professionalism.

To start with, neither league is at present anything more than a semi-pro league. And of late, the ASL has been showing alarming signs of the most crass amateurism.

The ASL has been unable to come up with a Commissioner to replace Chuck Blazer, who resigned at the beginning of the year.

In the resulting leadership vacuum, it would seem that some

BRENT GOULET ... has played 12 full internationals for the US.



● *Continued from previous page*

the keen homework done by Schneor and Grundman.

The Aussies were shocked five minutes from the break when Israel scored, giving the home team an Everest to climb in order to win the group.

The normally reliable Yankos made a terrible mess of trying to retrieve a loose ball and allowed Ohana to steal in, dribble past men and tap in.

Australia were stunned but had no answers to Israel's tight marking and all around hunger.

Their equaliser, from 20-year-old substitute Paul Trimboli, came two minutes before the end of normal time and much too late.

There was, of course, much made of the mediocre refereeing of Carlo Longhi of Italy, who added just 30 seconds of stoppage time when he should have added some three or four minutes.

But on the day, Israel more than deserved their draw.

And even though Australia's long unbeaten record against the Israelis remains, they now have to start from scratch to prepare for 1994 with Arok more than likely re-appointed for the task.

The future South American opponents would do very well to be wary of Israel, a splendid team, finely tuned by two very aware coaches in Schneor and Grunman, neither of whom, by the way, is senior to the other.

Ohana is their star but Rosenthal, strong, explosive and immensely quick, is their real danger man.

Other top performers are Sinai, a deft passer of the ball and deadly with the dead ball; and Pizanti, who loves to overlap on the left and send in impeccable crosses.

They have a fine all-round goalkeeper in Ginsburg and a good, efficient, attacking right back in Avi Cohen (not the Avi Cohen who, until recently, played for Glasgow Rangers).

Towering next to him, at stopper, is Nir Alon who is built like a basketballer with an efficiency in the air to match.

Complementing Sinai in midfield are Nir Klinger and Evraim Davidi, two intelligent and disciplined grafters.

In fact the team's only suspect position is sweeper where the slightly built Yehuda Amar is not expected to hold his place.

US head coach Bob Gansler

clubs are not behaving as they should. Accusations of foul play are in the air.

One of the clubs making such charges is the New Jersey Eagles. Last year the Eagles ended up with 15 wins and only 5 losses, they were champions of the Northern Division, but lost in the semi-finals of the play-offs.

They were a lively, goal-scoring team playing attractive soccer. This year, only two of last year's players are back.

Three of the top stars have signed for the Miami Sharks, four other players have joined the Boston Bolts.

Poach

How could that be? The Eagles' new coach Bob McNulty has made it pretty clear that he believes "certain clubs" have ignored a gentleman's agreement not to poach players from other clubs, and that "certain clubs" are offering under-the-table payments.

Last year the ASL had an agreed guideline figure of $50,000 for each club for all of that club's player salaries.

This year it has gone up to $75,000 — but it hardly needs saying that, with a monetary restraint like that, it is ridiculous to make out that the ASL is a pro league.

Maybe not, but last year it was the claim of Commissioner Blazer that at least the ASL would be professional in the way it conducted its business.

There was something in that, certainly, and the level of play on the field — while not outstanding — was acceptable.

That was last year. This year the Eagles, stripped of last year's stars, opened at home against the Boston Bolts and were clobbered 5-2.

The BBC World Service should have been there to see this one. That impressive talk about "rival leagues settling their differences" came down to this: about 450 people (some of whom had paid the required $8.00) watching the "professional" Eagles putting on a display of soccer ineptitude that would have disgraced a high school team.

Clive Toye — who, as general manager of the Cosmos, masterminded the 1975 signing of Pele — is vice-chairman of the Eagles.

He watched his club blunder and botch their way to defeat against the Bolts — and headed for the exit halfway through the second-half.

Sadly, with football of this pathetic calibre, the Eagles have absolutely no chance of creating a following in the New York area.

Other than on paper, that is. Their meagre 450 crowd at the opening game was officially announced as 1,916. With that sort of arithmetic, no doubt the Eagles will soon need to rent Wembley Stadium.

WHERE professional soccer continues to stumble in the USA, the youth game goes from strength to strength.

April saw the tenth edition of the Dallas Cup, a well- organised tournament featuring 134 boys and girls teams from 20 different countries.

This is now becoming an important yearly gathering point for the American game — this year the Italian organisers of the 1990 World Cup thought it important enough to send a representative.

This year was also remarkable because, after years of giving only polite 'niets' in response to requests for their presence, the Russians at last turned up.

That is to say, teams from the Ukraine, Latvia and Lithuania did.

The Latvians — a team of exceptionally young men playing in the under-19 division — did best, advancing to the semi-final where they lost on penalty-kicks to the all-conquering Tahuichi from Santa Cruz, Bolivia.

In taking the title for the third successive year, the Bolivian boys demonstrated yet again their electrifying combination of speed, skill and ball control.

HONG KONG WAS MECCA

from BRIAN HOMEWOOD

BRITISH soccer fans won't have to cast their minds back far to remember the time when Hong Kong appeared to be a mecca for players from the United Kingdom entering the twilight of their careers.

Veterans to be recruited by major clubs in the Crown Colony in the early years of the current decade include such former notables as Tommy Hutchison, Phil Boyer, Jimmy Bone, Mel Blyth, Barry Daines, Charlie George, Ricky Heppolette, Derek Parlane, Barry Powell, Terry Cochrane, Don Shanks, Micky Horswill, John Hawley, Mick Channon, Don Masson, Ian Mellor, Roger Davies, Duncan McKenzie, Peter Bodak, Graham Paddon, Alan Waddle, Chris McGrath, Gordon McQueen, Tony Morley, Tommy Langley, Joe Mayo and Nick Deacy.

Not that the British were alone in gaining lucrative contracts at a time when most would-be employers in their home countries may have considered them just a little too far over the hill; although they were always in the majority.

Previously prominent players from Holland, Yugoslavia, Denmark, West Germany, Switzerland and Sweden also extended their careers with short stints in Hong Kong.

Indeed, the Seiko club captured eight successive League Championships largely through the efforts of "old Dutch masters" like 1978 World Cup heroes Dick Nanninga, Arie Haan and Rene van der Kerkhof, who all wore the Watchmens' dark blue shirt, as did the equally formidable Gerrie Muhran.

Patrons of the Government Stadium, which stages the majority of First Division games, could boast of seeing more genuine stars (albeit slightly faded ones) each weekend than the majority of European fans — but this happy situation abruptly ended in 1986.

Expressing concern over foreign recruits stifling the development of locally born players, the Hong Kong Football Association barred imported professionals from playing in all domestic competitions.

The ban was looked upon primarily as a personal triumph for Peter Lam, the holder of a number of prestigious offices within the Hong Kong Football Association and an executive of the South China Athletic Association, which is not merely Hong Kong's most popular club but a venerated local institution.

South China had always been lukewarm, at best, in its support for the presence of foreign players in the Hong Kong League and itself maintained a strict Chinese-only policy until 1981, by which time its long-established dominance of domestic fare was well and truly shattered by Seiko.

Unfortunately, the reluctant introduction of one Danish and two West German players served only to accelerate South China's decline.

The Europeans simply could not blend successfully with the club's Chinese players on the field and the 1981-82 season saw them languishing seventh in the ten-team First Division — just one point ahead of relegated neighbours Caroline Hill.

Worse was to follow.

With Lam coaching the side, South China finished bottom of the table in 1983 and only the decision of Second Division Champions Police Football Club to decline promotion enabled them to stay in the upper sphere.

After discarding their continental European trip and replacing them with British players (ex-Tottenham, Manchester United and Northern Ireland midfielder Chris McGrath was the most successful), South China's fortunes improved but they seldom threatened Seiko's supremacy.

A decline in overall playing standards and a slump in attendance figures (blamed upon the local fans'perceived growing indifference to imports) were the explanations officially cited for the ban upon foreign players when it was announced by the Hong Kong Football Association.

However, most observers of Hong Kong soccer believed that it really reflected the fact that Lam's (and South China's) influence within the association had eclipsed that of those who supported the retention of overseas professionals.

Certainly, if the multi-millionaire had been motivated purely by the interests of South China, then his endeavours have certainly been rewarded on the pitch.

Rather than field a purely home bred side, Seiko disbanded in 1986 and South China (with Lam installed as principal sponsor) have dominated local fare in the last two seasons.

In 1987-88, they won all four major domestic competitions.

Yet, most of the Hong Kong soccer fraternity (including South China supporters) regarded the localisation policy as disastrous.

The slump in attendance figures has gathered momentum since 1986 — South China's own average attendance, despite their success, is down from 9,200 to 5,277 — and the general consensus of opinion is that playing standards have never been worse.

Those facts alone would probably have been sufficient to bring about a change of heart over foreign players.

What appears to have ensured that the foreigners will return at the start of the 1989-90 season is the weakening of Lam's political clout inside the Hong Kong Football Association.

Lam has always been a controversial figure.

In 1987, he alienated many within the local game when, in his capacity as Hong Kong Referees' Association Chairman, he removed the name of respected referee Alister Coutts from the FIFA list after suggesting the Scottish-born official had displayed bias against both South China and a Hong Kong national selection, which Lam managed, during two international tournaments staged in the Crown Colony.

● Continued on page 52

An unorthodox tackle from Des Walker of Nottingham Forest on Luton's Mick Harford during the Littlewoods Cup Final at Wembley.

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ITALIANS FEED THE

THE BRIAN GLA

THOSE crackpot European MPs really do seem to be taking their Soccer Slavery nonsense seriously; they really do intend to try to abolish transfer fees throughout the European Community.

This, by a colossal irony, just at the very time when the Iron Curtain countries are at last greedily getting as much money as they possibly can for the players they sell abroad.

Breath

When the Czech FA and authorities bullied Lubos Kubik into going home and drove him all the way from Zurich to Prague, where his wife and child had been convenient hostages, in the very next breath they were talking about pocketing a £750,000 fee from Fiorentina.

That is just chicken feed to any leading Italian club. The Russians, one hears, are going to be a great deal more exigent about such stars as Michailichenko and Protasov, as and when they let them go (it now looks as if it will not be before the 1990 World Cup).

Thus, unless the Euro-dictatorship imposes a ban on EEC clubs paying or receiving any transfer fee, to or from anywhere, we are faced with the deliciously anomalous prospect of their not being able to deal with one another, but only with clubs from South America and behind the Iron Curtain.

The trouble with these bone headed Euro MPs, apart from the fact that, if Sir John Hoskyns is to be believed, their expenses are vast, is that they are consumed by busy idleness.

The devil, if you like, makes work for idle hands; unless and except, of course, they are plunged into the gravy.

Pro soccer players never were slaves, not even serfs, but unquestionably there was a massively long time, especially in Britain, when they were shackled by iniquitous contracts, and pegged to an iniquitous maximum wage.

So much did the employers, the league clubs, hold the upper hand between the wars that, soon after the Great War, the maximum wage was reduced from £9 to £8. Nor did it even go up again till after World War II.

Contracts ran on indefinitely; it was the crudest sort of one way traffic. Nominally a player could refuse to be transferred, but that was about as far as his rights went.

It was a manifest Restraint of Trade, but not till the 1960s was it challenged. Not till 1961 did Jimmy Hill's inspired politicking lead to the abolition of the maximum wage.

Option

Even then it would take a long time before proper, time- limited, contracts were instituted. At first each of them contained a built-in option which could be picked up by the club, compelling a player to remain there for a similar period.

In 1971, the French introduced freedom of contract which was exactly that. At the end of his contract, a footballer could go without let or hindrance; or

Referees finding it hard to stand the pace

ARE referees getting worse? I was much tempted to think so after seeing the errors committed over a weekend recently by Mr Brian Hill at Southampton and Mr Roger Milford at Tottenham.

But my old friend and colleague Ezio De Cesari of the Corriere Dello Sport doesn't think so. His view is, not unreasonably, that things are simply much more difficult, that players are fitter, faster and stronger, that the intrusive presence of the television camera now puts referees under an appalling strain.

There is no doubt things are much more difficult for referees today, not least that their sins, or errors, thanks to television, will so often find them out.

CHICKEN CZECHS

VILLE COLUMN

transfer fee.

Perfectly fair, I always thought, and the next logical step along the way.

But the Euro MPs are proposing a great deal more than that, even though present provisions mean that in England, a player at the end of his contract has the automatic right to move and to have his transfer fee set by a tribunal, while deals between UEFA countries are subject to a fixed table of, relatively low, prices. When contracts, of course, are up.

In France, Spain and Italy, leading players earn between £300,000 to £400,000 a year, often tax free, plus bonuses, free car, free accommodation, free trips home several times a year with family. Slavery? Hardly le mot juste.

Grotesquely overpaid, fulfilling a superfluous role, it is perhaps inevitable that Euro MPs should descend to such stupidities.

Casual

The truth is that, as often as not now, it is the clubs which are taken to the cleaners by leading players; and managers. The casual way in which our own managers walk out on their contracts as though by divine right must surely be as nauseating to the general football public as it is to me.

When are the FA going to haul up some of these renegade managers for bringing the game into disrepute?

HOME SWEET HOME FOR CHARLTON

WHAT joyful news that Charlton Athletic are going back to The Valley, and that 2000 of their loyal and true supporters should selflessly turn up in the drenching rain, the Sunday after the announcement, to work on the long abandoned ground!

My memories of The Valley are legion. The first time I ever went there, as a very young schoolboy, my father took me. Arsenal against Charlton in 1942, £14,000 Bryn Jones, Britain's most expensive player, to make his comeback for the Gunners.

Big Sam Bartram in goal for Charlton, of course, but in goal for Arsenal . . . Leslie Compton, the full-back who, a couple of years earlier, had been scoring many goals as centre-forward. George Swindon, then in the army, like Compton, hadn't shown up, and Leslie, a Middlesex wicket keeper who knew how to use his hands, stepped into the breach. Prior to the war, an Arsenal reserve full back kept on the stiffs by Male and Hapgood, he had actually played two England international trials.

He let in just two late goals by Charlie Revell that day; I didn't see either, my father having insisted we leave early. Bryn Jones scored three, Arsenal got six.

Some five years later, the Saturday before Charlton won the 1947 Cup Final, my father and I were down at The Valley again, standing on a mud bank behind one of the goals. By the time the game began there were 60,000 in the ground for a League game of no importance played by a scratch Charlton side, which included Benny Fenton, just signed; the future Millwall manager. 2-2 was the score.

I can still remember seeing a shot by little Jimmy Logie, Arsenal's general, who didn't score many goals, beating Bartram and rebounding from the stanchion.

In the 50s, when crowds began to slide, it was said that the true trouble was that the trams had gone; people couldn't get to The Valley as easily any more. Perhaps, judging by what one reads and hears, the trams will eventually come back.

But at least Charlton are back, with all those memories of Sam Bartram, Don Welsh, Sailor Brown, Charlie Vaughan, Eddie Firmani and Stuart Leary. For which much thanks.

ENGLAND BUTCHER THE SWEEPER

TO sweep or not to sweep? The controversy continues. Paul Elliott, who has made such an impressive return to the Pisa team after 15 months' absence through a knee ligament operation, is all for sweeping; not least by the England team.

Elliott himself has been operating as both sweeper and stopper for Pisa, sometimes, as against Roma, in the same match. Elliott feels that a four-in-line zonal defence in major international competition is tempting fortune, when it comes up against the likes of Voeller or Van Basten, with their exceptional speed.

But then, as I have pointed out before, if you have central defenders like Franco Baresi, you can cheerfully play zonal defence as Milan do; and so many other Italian clubs, besides.

What you cannot do is switch from zonal defence as a foolishly mistaken whim as George Graham did when Arsenal played in early April at Manchester United.

Dangerous

What in the name of good sense possessed him, against a mediocre team with two vulnerable players back from long absence — Whiteside and Viv Anderson — to play with a sweeper and sacrifice an attacker as dashingly dangerous as Paul Merson?

Having just ended a bad run with an away win at Southampton eight days earlier, with Merson a dazzlingly effective substitute, Arsenal made David O'Leary their sweeper, behind Bould and Adams — a pretty rigid and vulnerable pair, I agree — and sacrificed a striker.

It might have been halfway to a good idea had the sweeper been a player with a change of pace, capable of breaking out in attack, but O'Leary at this stage of his career was never going to do that. United's own timidity was reflected by their own bizarre decision to use Brian McClair not up front but in midfield, leaving three Arsenal defenders marking Hughes. Seeing that, Graham should have pulled out one of his centre backs and put in Merson.

Arsenal didn't deserve to win but very nearly did; Adams, having scored, put through his own goal.

Decent

Broadly speaking, British teams don't take kindly to sweeper defence. England's need for a sweeper has been caused, if at all, by Bobby Robson's insistence on picking utterly inadequate centre-backs; with the decent exception of Des Walker, "Butcher, sempre Butcher, Butcher, always Butcher!" as Enzo Bearzot used jovially to say.

Yet I still don't understand why Mr Milford, who would award two penalties in the second-half, didn't give Spurs one in the first, when Gary Ablett crudely brought Nayim down; any more than I could comprehend that Mr Hill didn't even speak to Southampton's Rodney Wallace, when he had quite clearly struck Arsenal's Richardson, just guilty of a foul on Horne, as he ran past.

The strangest thing was that he should proceed to lecture Richardson . . . and Southampton's Neil Ruddock, who had not been near the incident.

Recently, too, when interviews on ITN about the Clough affair at Nottingham, fans punched while you wait, I suggested that we needed a new version of the famous 11th Commandment; Thou Shalt Not Be Found Out . . . by television.

Would there have been so much exaggerated fuss had Clough's doubtless misguided actions not been shown and shown again on prime time TV?

I also compared the cases of Paul Davis, suspended for nine whole matches for punching Glenn Cockerill of Southampton, on television, with the Anderson-Fashanu tunnel punch-up at Wimbledon, when both escaped with surprisingly light sentences. No TV in the tunnel that day, you see.

Since then, there has been the more complex episode of Vinny Jones, Kevin Ratcliffe, and the Butt That Apparently Never Was. Involved in a hot exchange with Ratcliffe, Vinny Jones, no angel he, appeared to butt Ratcliffe in the face. The Everton and Wales centre-half promptly collapsed in seeming agony. But did Jones touch him at all?

He and Wimbledon swore he did not, and television appeared to prove them right. Jones' butt was a threat rather than an actuality. In Italy, one might add, "simulation of a foul" is a most serious offence, punished by sending off.

Nor was Jones, in this period, the only Wimbledon player to be expelled for a venial offence, then cleared, without remission, by the TV cameras.

De Cesari justifiably says that referees will go on making mistakes, like all the rest of us; the important thing is that they make them in good faith.

He dismisses the two referees idea which is perpetually cropping up, insisting, again with reason, that if a referee has two decent linesmen, that should be quite enough.

The trouble is, as we know, that it often isn't enough; not least in World Cups when we remember the horror of Toni Schumacher's brutal assault on Patrick Battiston in Seville, 1982 — he wasn't even cautioned by the Dutch referee, Corver — and the fiasco of Maradona's punched goal against England in Mexico City four years later.

Corver didn't even have the fragile excuse of being a "third world referee", appointed on political rather than on logical grounds. But there again, what help did he get from either of his linesmen?

There is a lingering suspicion, hard to be rid of, that linesmen tend to be a little like the three wise monkeys. The odd exception to prove the rule is, of course, the linesman who wants to prove that there is no show without Punch, but I am not sure that he is not the lesser evil.

FRANK LOOKS TO

by MICK DUNNE

THE past year and a half has seen Irish international Frank Stapleton's career at club level take him from the English first division limelight to the Dutch giants Ajax, and then back to England for a spell with Derby.

Last October, having failed to land a satisfactory contract in England, he moved to the continent again, taking up an offer from French side Le Havre.

Six months on, Stapleton is happy with his club and vice- versa, but problems with his family settling in the French city have forced the former Arsenal and Manchester United striker to look towards England again.

Just recently, he arranged for his family to settle back 'home', and intends to leave French soccer for good at the end of the current season.

"I'm disappointed that I've had to make this decision. I'm enjoying my football here, but the family situation is just one of those things that doesn't always work out," said Stapleton.

"My little lad just can't settle into school here. I've explained things to the club and they understand the situation".

Le Havre have agreed to reducing his original two year contract to one year.

Stapleton is still hopeful that he can contribute to his club's return to first division football.

Relegated last year, Le Havre made sweeping changes and are currently second in division two.

Eight new players were brought in as well as a new coach, the Pole, Pierre Mankowski, to launch their bid for a quick return to the top flight. At present they lie eight points adrift of the top club Lyon, but here, three points are awarded for a win.

Only the top club is automatically promoted though, and Stapleton feels Le Havre may have to settle for a play-off battle for promotion.

Cup hopes have already been dashed. In February, Le Havre were eliminated by fellow second division side Beauvals, who went on to tumble Hateley and Hoddle's Monaco out of the same competition.

Stapleton's first taste of Continental soccer promised to be much more glamorous. At the start of the 1987/88 season he left English football, after long and successful years with both Arsenal (his first club) and Manchester United, and took up an offer from Ajax, then under the guidance of Johann Cruyff.

It meant playing alongside the likes of Rijkaard, Wouters, Van't Schip, Bosman and Muhren under a manager with an attack-minded philosophy.

"There aren't many managers who can build successful sides around a formation that allows for only three across the back- line — it's a rarity in today's game," says Stapleton.

He recalls the Dutch ace's rigorous training sessions. "It was tough going. Some of my team-mates used to remark that Cruyff trained us harder than he himself had ever trained.

"But then as a player he had an in-built natural fitness."

Stapleton's stay in Holland suffered a cruel blow when, after only four league games, a few Cup Winners' Cup appearances and one goal, he picked up an injury that was ultimately to spell the end of his association with the famous Dutch side.

He was out of action for half of the season and while he was recovering, the manager was engaged in off-the-field wranglings with the Ajax board.

"Cruyff was frequently at loggerheads with the board. He wanted to run the club — to be involved in all activities. He wanted the board to leave everything to him but they said no."

By the time Stapleton regained full fitness, Cruyff had departed. The Irish international was unable to win a place in an Ajax side that were, at the time, serious aspirants to the league title, and were also well advanced towards Cup Winners' Cup success.

"I found myself languishing in the reserves. Cruyff, who had signed me, was gone and the club had a temporary manager. It wasn't looking good for me and I knew I had to look elsewhere."

Last March, the club agreed to letting him take up an offer from Derby County to assist them in their last 12 games of the season. Officially though, he was still an Ajax player.

When the English club season ended, Stapleton's next assignment was with Ireland in the European Championships in Germany.

While the Dublin-born striker was playing his part in his country's achievements there, the club managers back in England were thinking about their squads for the coming season.

On his return from Germany, Stapleton was overlooked by most clubs and he received only a handful of offers from smaller clubs than he'd been used to.

When the 88/89 league season began, and managers had settled on their

CEL

by PETER OAKES

ROY AITKEN is a soccer rarity — a player of the old school.

The man who skippers Celtic against Rangers in the 'old firm' Cup Final is a one-club man in the mould of the truly greats from the thirties, forties and fifties.

He signed S forms at Parkhead when he was a schoolboy; he's still at the club 16 years later; and has absolutely no plans to leave.

He says: "My contract at Celtic doesn't run out until 1992 and I will be 33 then.

"Hopefully I'll play another three, four or five years and, hopefully, it will be at Parkhead.

"I made my debut for the club in the 1975-76 season, I have played about 650 games for Celtic and I can honestly say I've never once regretted staying here all my career.

"I have enjoyed playing for the club. I have been signed since I was 14. That was in 1972 on S forms.

"I've had a fair amount of success here, I'm captain of the club, and I've enjoyed every season I've been here.

"Of course there are extra pressures at a club like Celtic but I enjoy those pressures. If you want to be the best you want to do it with the best and that is what I've been doing at Parkhead.

"You've got to be able to handle the pressure that comes with playing for a club like this and I have found it all a challenge.

"It's a goldfish bowl and I'm sure the English boys who have come to Scotland will tell you it's a totally different ball game playing for either Celtic or Rangers.

"You can't walk down the street without everyone knowing who you are. But that has never worried me."

And, despite being one of Britain's top players for years, Aitken has never come close to leaving his beloved Parkhead.

He claims: "I followed Celtic as a young boy although I never got much of a chance to watch them because I was always playing twice a day every Saturday.

"I've never even thought of leaving because I have always been well looked after. I don't even know if any club has ever come in for me — I've certainly never been told of any interest and I've never been in a position to have found out.

"I have always signed a new contract before my current one had run out so there has been no reason to know if another club wanted to buy me.

"I have never had a big ambition to play in the English First Division, I've never said I'd love to play there. Of course I have played with the English-based internationals and I hear all the bits and bobs from them but I've

ENGLAND

squads, he was more or less out in the cold, but he continued to hold off from the smaller offers.

It affected, for a while, his international prospects, and his lack of match fitness meant that Jack Charlton didn't name him on the panel for the Republic's 0-0 draw in Belfast against Northern Ireland last September.

Then, in October, the offer came from Le Havre, where another Irish international, the ex-QPR player John Byrne, was well established and Stapleton was Europe-bound again.

This time the footballing side has worked out well, but the family considerations mean he intends to return for good to the English game at the end of the current season.

Nonetheless he regards France as a potentially happy hunting- ground for English players seeking a move abroad.

"The club football set-up is good here. Also, players from the English game tend to do well because they have an extra dimension to their play that's not found among the French — the ability to physically impose themselves on the game.

"Here, players are brought up to concentrate on individual skill and imagination. Teamwork is not concentrated on as much as in the English game.

"It just takes a little while to adjust to know what the other players are doing.

"At Le Havre, I'm not confined to the usual centre-forward role. They expect me to move around a bit and be creative.

"French players tend to protest a lot to the referee over my style, which they regard as too aggressive, but the officials know it's within the rules.

"Refs tend to get a hard time here generally, with temperament resulting in players often pulling them and pushing them in protest at decisions — something which wouldn't be tolerated in England."

He regards the physical side of the French game as a factor in their national team's gloomy World Cup prospects. "They've got some very talented young players, but they are a bit brittle and lacking in physical strength."

He is confident of his own country's prospects of qualification and reckons that England will make it to Italy as well.

"The good thing is that Ireland are presently in a situation where we are not dependent on other results.

"Our fate is in our own hands. Some of the media tend to be over-critical

of our style of play which, away from home, is not geared to being too adventurous.

"We got a point in Hungary and Jack Charlton was criticised for not attacking more but we remember when we went to Bulgaria in the European qualifiers.

"We went out to win, created numerous chances and lost 2-1. The important thing is to qualify. Once you're in the Finals, how you got there doesn't matter.

"England may have to qualify as best runners-up, but I think they will both get there."

TIC ... FOR LIFE

never had an ambition to go South.

"I'm a home grown player and I have been in Europe every year and I've played lots of international football.

"I don't think I have made the wrong decision. The decision has always benefitted me and always benefitted the club. A lot of people go elsewhere and find they aren't as happy as they thought they would be.

"I've always been happy with the club and I've always had a good rapport with the fans.

"I've also played with some marvellous players. Kenny Dalglish is probably the best of them all.

"He is something special but there have been others.

"Danny McGrain was so consistent and there was Charlie Nicholas.

"They said we would never be able to replace Kenny and along came Charlie to score 52 goals in a season."

These days Aitken's whole life revolves around either football or his family — wife Jane and their two children, an eight-year-old daughter Ashley and a little boy of four, John.

"I've got my full badge, A licence, in coaching but I don't get involved at all in the coaching at Celtic.

"I have got three years left on my contract and nothing will change in that time.

"I'd like to play as long as I can because that's the most enjoyable part of football."

Aitken's most pressing ambition is to lead Scotland in Italy in the next World Cup Finals and he admits: "We are in the driving seat.

"If we don't qualify now there will be a hell of a fuss.

"I'm pleased for Andy Roxburgh. He was not the people's choice at the start. He was the choice of the Scottish Football Association.

"He was always regarded as a top class coach but people were never sure about his man management.

"He has come out with flying colours and all the players have got respect for him.

"We have got together a squad which is the closest I have known to a team squad.

"It's like being in a club because we all get on well. There's a good harmony which is very important.

"Andy is very well organised in everything he does and nothing is ever left to chance."

Aitken is, of course, the Scotland captain these days and his own role is often of linkman between the players and the management team of Roxburgh and his number two Craig Brown.

He said: "When Andy made me squad captain it was something that had never been done before.

"The term he used to me was squad captain but that doesn't automatically mean I'd be playing in every game. I'd be in the squad but not necessarily in the team.

"I've never taken it for granted that I'll be picked for any game. As it happens I have been picked for every game but obviously he will only pick me if he thinks I deserve my place.

"I accept that things can change: a loss of form, injuries, a lack of availability. There are a lot of things that can happen to affect selection. But I hope I'll be leading my country to Italy.

"My real off the park role is as a link between the players and the manager. If there's anything the boys are upset about it's my job to try and sort it out.

"Often it is only a little thing but it is a time-consuming role. It can be such a small matter as trying to change the time of training or if there's a meeting planned for a certain time and the boys want it at a different time I'll go and see him.

"He's always been most accommodating. It even stretches to things like making sure players who want breakfast in bed get it.

"One little example of how things have changed under him comes in the allocation of players' match tickets. At one time our wives had to pick up the tickets on the day of a match. Now they are posted to our homes.

"It is small things like this which have helped us all. Now we know our wives don't have to come to Hampden a couple of hours before the kick-off to collect their tickets and we don't have to worry about waiting for them outside the ground.

"Andy takes enormous care over the little things and that gets response from the players. We believe he really is thinking about the players all the time."

The only major disappointment for Aitken this year has been Celtic's inability to retain the Scottish Premier Division flag.

He said: "This year we haven't defended as well as we did last year as a team. We have never been as consistent as we were. It's difficult to say why.

"We have sat in the dressing room and asked ourselves that question.

"Last year we were going to prove everyone wrong. This year we haven't shown that same determination.

"We know on our day we can beat any other team in the league but we have only shown our form in fits and starts. Our Scottish Cup semi-final was a case in point.

"We played for half an hour — and in that case it was enough to take us to the final but in other matches it hasn't been enough."

SUBSTITUTED TO JET OFF TO AUSTRALIA

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND ... by SEAN CREEDON

THOUSANDS of young Irish people are leaving the Emerald Isle every month to seek work abroad.

But none have left in such dramatic circumstances as 16-year-old Justin Gleeson.

The talented centre-half from Tallaght, one of the new suburbs of south Dublin, was substituted in the second-half of the Leinster Schools Senior Cup Final — so that he could catch a flight to Australia!

Justin's headmaster had to rush his star defender to Dublin airport, where he joined his family who were all emigrating to Perth on the 5.30 pm flight.

When Justin came off, his school St Mark's were winning 1-0. They eventually lost 2-1 in extra-time to St Vincents.

The Republic of Ireland supporters won the hearts of everybody at the European Championship finals last summer.

Now a group from the official supporters club are world record holders.

Over the Easter weekend, 12 members of the club set a new record for non-stop indoor football.

They played for 108 hours and 27 minutes — over two hours better than the previous record held by a group from Rockhampton, Australia.

The fans raised over £15,000 for charity and now hope for a mention in the Guinness Book of Records.

Drogheda United are the First Division champions in Eire.

The County Louth club also had a good run in the FAI Harp Lager Cup before being knocked out by Bray Wanderers in a quarter-final replay.

At the time of writing, the second promotion spot had not been decided.

Meanwhile Derry are Premier Division champions and Waterford United are definitely relegated. The Blues had three different managers during the season — Peter Thomas, Andy King and Derek Casey.

The Football Association of Ireland will stage the 1994 UEFA Under-16 championship in Dublin.

The Final is likely to be played at Dalymount Park, which should be fully modernised by then.

Pat Jennings, the world's most capped player, will play for a League of Ireland Selection against the Republic of Ireland at Tolka Park, Dublin on May 24.

The game will be a testimonial for former Eire international Ray Treacy.

It has been a good season for Billy Hamilton.

When the former Northern Ireland international took charge at Limerick City towards the end of last season, he just managed to keep them in the Premier Division.

This season, Limerick finished third and 32-year-old Hamilton ended up as the league's top scorer with 21 goals.

CHILE hope to have most of their foreign-based stars for their visit to Britain for the Rous Cup matches against England and Scotland and a friendly in Northern Ireland.

Manager Orlando Aravena was in Europe recently both to tie up arrangements for the matches and also to talk to the exported stars he needs to reintegrate into his squad in time for the World Cup qualifiers later this summer.

Chile will probably have to fly to Europe without Brazil-based goalkeeper Roberto Rojas and centre-back Fernando Astengo as well as star forward Jorge Aravena, who moved to Mexico's Puebla last September after a spell in Colombia with America of Cali.

But once in Europe, manager Aravena hopes to team up with Hugo Rubio (with Bologna in Italy), Ivo Basay (Reims, France), Jaime Vera (OFI, Greece), Jorge Contreras (Las Palmas, Spain) and Patricio Yanez (Betis, Spain).

Aravena said: "There has been a lot of misunderstanding about my plans because of the complications of having so many of our stars abroad."

CLO TRO

NOTTINGHAM FOREST manager Brian Clough has captured his first trophy in nine years but the major domestic prize has suddenly come into focus again for the familiar predators Liverpool.

Clough's side went into the Littlewoods Cup Final against 1988 winners Luton Town for act one of a possible Wembley trilogy. Ahead lay engagements in the FA Cup and Simod Cup.

The young Forest team has emerged as one of the finest in the land, playing the neat, composed football their otherwise unpredictable manager invariably demands.

But Clough's players of recent seasons have discovered that winning friends doesn't necessarily mean winning honours and the FA Cup still eludes a man who has stood at the very summit of the European game.

Into the second-half of the Littlewoods Cup Final, Forest must have feared another campaign was crumbling at their feet. Mick Harford had given Luton the lead and the side engaged in the desperate struggle for First Division survival appeared capable of keeping their hold on this pot.

But then Luton goalkeeper Les

RANGERS TITLE!

SCOTLAND . . . by GLEN GIBBONS

WHATEVER else may be said about April in Scotland, the winds of change blew with telling force.

Celtic officially lost their Premier Division championship; the cup finalists were decided; Dundee United faded out of contention for the title; and Aberdeen re-emerged as the only side with a chance of foiling Rangers' hopes.

Celtic, the champions, ultimately surrendered the trophy almost without a fight.

Certainly, they could reflect on the great confrontation with Rangers at Parkhead on the first day of the month and consider themselves a little unlucky to lose 2-1.

Having looked like being embarrassed as Rangers strolled to a 2-0 half-time lead, Billy McNeill's players thereafter threatened to sweep Graeme Souness's men under the carpet.

But little Joe Miller missed a penalty at 2-1 and that confirmed that Rangers would win at Celtic Park for the first time in nine years.

If the champions retained a certain respect after the Rangers game, they lost it with a 2-0 defeat at Hamilton — bottom of the division — and the 2-2 draw at Motherwell which made their capitulation official.

Yet, only four days after the Motherwell game, they pulverised Hibs in the semi-final of the Scottish Cup.

Without regular full-backs Chris Morris (appendicitis) and Anton Rogan (knee damage), they led 3-0 within 28 minutes and won 3-1 to ensure the rendezvous with Rangers in the 13th Old Firm final at Hampden on May 20.

If Rangers remain odds-on, perhaps they should pay some attention to Celtic's astonishing pedigree in the cup.

Having won it a record 28 times, they have, through the last century, demonstrated a remarkable capacity for shrugging off desperately poor form in other areas and coming good in this tournament.

On the evidence of the semi-final victory over Hibs, they could certainly do so again.

VITA

MO JOHNSTON'S decisive part in Scotland's World Cup defeat of France provided yet another chapter in the Scottish national team's history of utilising the services of players who earn a living playing football beyond the British Isles.

The selection of the Scotland side has always featured a significant quota of English-based footballers who have preferred the attractions of the Football League to those available North of the Border.

But not only Johnston, also Murdo McLeod appears to have settled on the continent with minimum disturbance.

McLeod, who played for Dumbarton and Celtic before moving to Dortmund after contract negotiations with the Glasgow club had broken down, is established in the Bundesliga with Borussia while his wife and children have adapted well to life in West German suburbia.

Johnston, a former Partick Thistle and Watford player, joined McLeod in the mass exodus from Celtic Park at the end of 1986/87 along with Brian McClair and Alan McInally, both of whom elected to display their talents in English football.

It was Nantes, of France, who secured Johnston's signature and the blond striker has taken to French football like the proverbial duck to water.

While playing with Celtic, Johnston often complained of his "goldfish bowl" existence in Glasgow.

Unable to cope with the degree of attention bestowed upon him, his form deteriorated at both club and international level.

His present lifestyle, based

UGH
PHY

Sealey inexplicably sent Forest's former England midfield player Steve Hodge tumbling to the turf and Clough's son Nigel calmly converted the penalty.

Forest's current England midfield player Neil Webb put them ahead as Luton vainly protested he was offside, and Clough junior scored the third to put the issue beyond doubt and clinch his own man-of-the-match award.

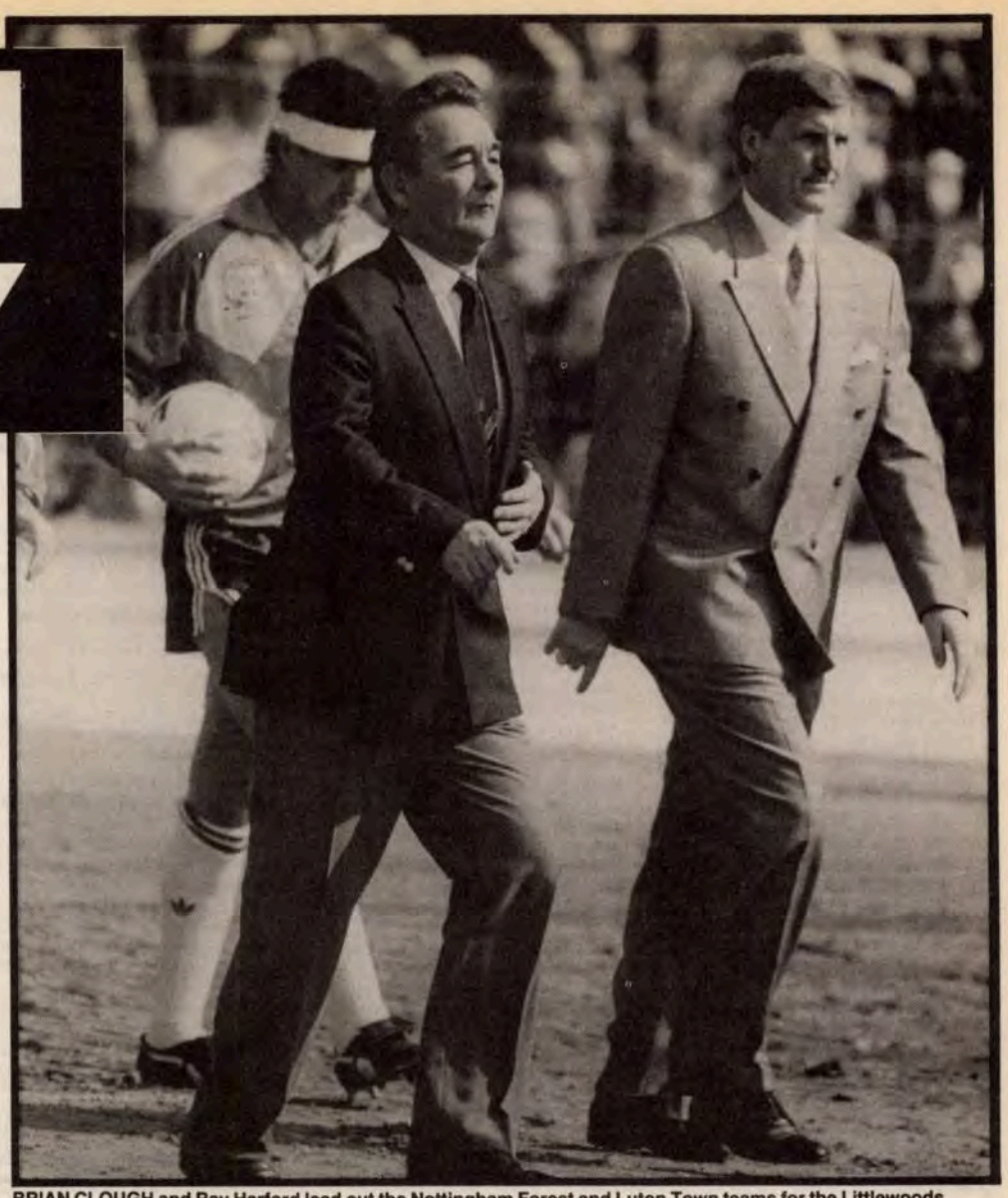
Clough senior had hugs and kisses for everybody in sight, then he made his way from the bench — a position he is still not allowed to take outside Wembley — and headed for the dressing room before his players received the Cup.

Nigel Clough, the 24-year-old striker, seemed ill at ease in the limelight his father shunned.

"Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine I would ever score two goals in a cup final here," he said.

Preparations are well in hand for the 1989 Hatters Cup in Luton, Britain's premier international summer soccer tournament with eight sections.

This year's tournament looks like being even better than the 1988 competition, which attracted teams from Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, England, Finland, Italy, Northern Ireland, Sweden, Taiwan and the United States.



BRIAN CLOUGH and Ray Harford lead out the Nottingham Forest and Luton Town teams for the Littlewoods Cup Final at Wembley.

L EXPORTS

by ALAN FAIRLEY

around a luxury villa in the French countryside, has provided the perfect antidote to the traumas he experienced in Glasgow.

Denis Law was the first of the modern day Scottish footballers to travel to Europe with a view to obtaining financial security when he left Manchester City as a youngster to join Italian club Torino in 1961.

During his spell in Turin, Law teamed up with English-born Joe Baker who had been tempted to leave Edinburgh side Hibernian in order to portray his skills in the Italian League.

Both players adapted well to continental football, their front running, cavalier styles proving popular with the Torino fans but their contentment in Italy was soured by a car crash in which they both suffered injuries and, when recovered, the players returned to Britain.

There was little Scottish involvement in the European leagues during the remainder of the 1960s.

In 1978, however, former Airdrie midfielder Jim Bett signed for Icelandic club Valur of Reykjavik, becoming an instant hero with the island's football followers and eventually securing a lucrative transfer to Lokeren of Belgium before returning to Scotland in 1980 to join Rangers.

During his time at Ibrox, Bett won a number of domestic honours as well as becoming a regular in the Scottish national side but his Icelandic wife was unable to settle in Glasgow and, after three seasons with Rangers, he returned to rejoin Lokeren.

Bett has since been transferred to Aberdeen, a city which appears to have gained his wife's approval

As the 1970s draw to a close, the pecuniary rewards of playing overseas were again highlighted and Joe Jordan, Graeme Souness and Steve Archibald all decided that long term financial security could be guaranteed by virtue of a few seasons on the continent.

Jordan moved to Milan and also had a spell with Verona before returning to Southampton while Souness spent a number of seasons in Genoa with Sampdoria prior to his decision to join Rangers.

Archibald chose the glamour of Barcelona before falling out of favour and coming back to Scotland although he may shortly be quitting Hibernian.

In more recent times Rangers' Ted McMinn suffered similar problems to those experienced by Johnston in the divided community of Glasgow and, after a court appearance as a result of an incident outside a discotheque, followed his ex-manager Jock Wallace to Spain where his individual style made him a favourite with the fanatical Seville fans.

McMinn has since left Spanish football and is presently playing the best football of his career with Derby.

Others to have crossed the channel include Eric Black (Aberdeen to Metz), Ray Stephen (Dundee to Nancy) and Davie Dodds, whose short term transfer to Swiss club Neuchatel Xamax raised a few eyebrows.

United's manager Jim McLean had originally refused to sell Dodds to Scottish rivals Aberdeen but, after a few months in Switzerland, Neuchatel readily transferred him to the Pittodrie Club, leading to allegations that the Xamax outfit had been used as a convenient "fence".

TREBLE IN SIGI

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS' CUP FINAL
Milan v Steaua Bucharest
In Barcelona, May 24

By ROSY BROGLIA

ITALIAN football is within sight of a unique treble. No country has ever boasted success in all three European club competitions in the same season. But Milan, entering the Champions' Cup Final in Barcelona as obvious favourites against Steaua Bucharest, could have the honour of crowning such an achievement, even if Ruud Gullit fails to recover from knee trouble in time.

The Champions' Cup is the last of the three European finals.

By the time Marco Van Basten takes his goal-scoring boots out at Nou Camp, Italy could already be celebrating success for Sampdoria in the Cup Winners' Cup and for Napoli in the UEFA Cup.

Van Basten will appreciate the irony of the final venue. Not only are Milan going back to Spain, having just thrashed Spanish champions Real Madrid, but they play at the home of a club, Barcelona, whose coach, Johan Cruyff, has made no secret of his desire to bring Van Basten into his squad.

Victory for Milan — and Van Basten — will rule that idea right out of court.

If Milan win, president Silvio Berlusconi will tie up his star players so tightly that even Barcelona could not afford the transfer expense.

Steaua will not be easy rivals. Milan acknowledged the fact at the time of the semi-final draw, when they admitted that they preferred facing Madrid than the army team from Bucharest.

For one thing, as coach Arrigo Sacchi said: "Madrid let you play, Steaua stop you playing."

The Rumanians have seen sweeper Miodrag Belodedici run away to Yugoslavia but their defence is as resillient as ever now that Silviu Lung, possibly Eastern Europe's most reliable goalkeeper, has settled down following his move from Craiova.

But Van Basten, World Soccer's World Player of the Year as well as well as European Footballer of the Year and Best Player at last summer's European championship relishes a challenge.

He says: "Steaua are a very difficult team to win against.

"They will be much more difficult to play against than Real Madrid.

"Two years ago, they won this Cup; so they have experience, they are technically good and are good individually as well.

"But apart from these considerations, we won't worry that much. We are all right, you could see that against Real.

"Everybody is like me, very calm and hopeful. We want to win this Cup, that's our only aim, we lost concentration in the championship because of this Cup.

"That's bad and not very honourable to admit, but it is true. Next year we will be a force again. I promise."

Does this mean Van Basten has given up all thoughts of rejoining Johan Cruyff?

"I don't understand why the newspapers want me to sign for Barcelona," he said.

"I worked with Cruyff all the times we were together at Ajax, then I came to Milan and he went to Barcelona a year after me.

"There is nothing more and nothing less, my relationship with him is good, he is a friend, but that is all.

"In Milan, everybody wants me to renew my contract before 1990, but now I don't want to think of it, I want to relax, think it over and in one year I will make my decision by myself, and not for anybody else.

"It is true, football is more stressful here and more important here than in any other country in the world.

"There are more supporters, which is positive and there is lots of pressure.

"But if you overcome the initial difficulties, life here becomes much more satisfactory and when you do something well you can say you really feel a champion."

What about the prospect of English teams being readmitted to European competitions?

"It is great that UEFA are ready to take this step, the English game is highly spectacular and we all lost something in the years when they didn't take part.

"It is always very difficult to play against English teams. Their football is good to watch because in one match so much happens, plenty of goals, a lot of excitement, each team always playing to win."

What mistake do you regret most in your career?

"No doubt: I made a big mistake a couple of years ago when both my ankles needed operations but I continued to play.

"If your body says 'stop', you have to stop.

"You know what happened later: I had to give up football for a long time and I was afraid I would never play again.

"That's why, if, or should I say when, we win this Cup, one of the people I will dedicate it to is the physiotherapist who helped me after the operation.

"She worked miracles, I can never thank her enough."

CHAMPIONS' CUP

Leading scorers: Van Basten (Milan) 8 goals; Lacatus (Steaua) 7; Hagi (Steaua) 6; Tanju (Galatasaray), Hugo Sanchez (Real Madrid) each 5; Butragueno (Real Madrid), Dumitrescu (Steaua) 4; Virdis (Milan), Balint (Steaua), Fofana (Monaco), Stojkovic (Red Star Belgrade), Luthi (Xamax Neuchatel) each 3; Gullit (Milan), Ugur, Cuneyt (Galatasaray), Froberg, Nilsson, Forsberg, Ingesson, Zetterlund (IFK Gothenburg), Toure, Weah (Monaco), Romario, R.Koeman (PSV Eindhoven), Mrkela (Red Star), McAvennie (Celtic), Livanthinos (Pezoporikos), L.Refalo (Hamrun Spartans), Bilec (Sparta Praha), Rui Aguas (FC Porto), Cherenkov (Spartak Moscow), Urban (Gornik) each 2; Stoica, Petrescu (Steaua), Savas D, Prekazi (Galatasaray), Ancelotti, Rijkaard, Donadoni (Milan), Losada, Tendillo, Martin Vazquez (Real Madrid), Sonor (Monaco), Eriksson, Ravelli, Holmgren (IFK), Wolter, Kutzop, Hermann, Riedle, Burgsmuller, Schaaf (Werder Bremen), Kieft, Ellerman, Janssen (PSV), Musemic, Stojic, Djurovskji, Savicevic, Sabanadzovic (Red Star), Bettagno, Brylle, Mbuyu, Audoor (Brugge), Ivanov, Shalimov (Moscow Spartak), Steja, Hodja, Josa (Nentori), Madjer, Sousa, Domingos (Porto), Hermann, Lei-Ravello, Decastel (Neuchatel), McGhee, Walker (Celtic), Edvaldsson (Valur), Kukleta (Sparta), Kienast, Kranjcar (Rapid Vienna), Valla, Kanerva (HJK Helsinki), Thys (Jeunesse Esch), Frank, Christensen (Brondby), Fedor (Honved), Moore (Glentoran), Ziogas, Mitsibonas, Karapialis (Larissa), Nachev, Iliev (Vitosha), Doll, Thom, Pastor (BFC Dynamo E.Berlin), Komornicki, Warzycha, Zagorski (Gornik) each one goal.

Previous winners: 1956 Real Madrid. 1957 Real Madrid. 1958 Real Madrid. 1959 Real Madrid. 1960 Real Madrid. 1961 Benfica. 1962 Benfica. 1963 MILAN. 1964 Internazionale. 1965 Internazionale. 1966 Real Madrid. 1967 Celtic. 1968 Manchester United. 1969 MILAN. 1970 Feyenoord. 1971 Ajax. 1972 Ajax. 1973 Ajax. 1974 Bayern Munich. 1975 Bayern Munich. 1976 Bayern Munich. 1977 Liverpool. 1978 Liverpool. 1979 Nottingham Forest. 1980 Nottingham Forest. 1981 Liverpool. 1982 Aston Villa. 1983 Hamburg. 1984 Liverpool. 1985 Juventus. 1986 Steaua Bucharest. 1987 FC Porto. 1988 PSV Eindhoven.

Total victories: Real Madrid 6; Liverpool 4; Ajax Amsterdam and Bayern Munich each 3; Benfica, Internazionale, Milan, Nottingham Forest each 2; Aston Villa, Celtic, Feyenoord, Hamburg, Juventus, Manchester United, FC Porto, PSV Eindhoven, Steaua Bucharest.

CUP-WINNERS' CUP

Leading scorers: Stoichkov (CFKA Sofia) 7 goals; Penev 6; Roberto (Barcelona), Vialli (Sampdoria) each 5; Gilligan (Cardiff), Valscovici (Dinamo Bucharest), Lineker (Barcelona) each 4; Bosman, Wilmots, Ohana (Mechelen), Kostadinov (CFKA), B.Kristensen (Aarhus), Krncevic (Anderlecht), Araskiewicz (Lech Poznan) each 3; Den Boer, E.Koeman (Mechelen), Amor, Beguiristain, Baquero (Barcelona), Van de Luer (Roda), Pemel, Mortensen, Stampe, Andersen (Aarhus), Mateut (Dinamo Bucharest), Sievers (Eintracht Frankfurt), Strasser, Weber (Carl Zeiss jena), Tarasov (Metallist Kharkov), Ruc (Flamurtari), Groborovics (Bekescsaba), Toninho Cerezo, Salsano (Sampdoria) each 2; Getov (CFKA), Dossena, Vierchowod, Carboni (Sampdoria), Deferm (Mechelen), Julio Salinas (Barcelona), Andone, Racuciu (Dinamo Bucharest), Haan, Van Loen, Boerebach (Roda), Makreeber (Aarhus), Bakalorz, Binz, Schulz, Balzis, Studer (Frankfurt), Meade, Bowmans (Dundee Utd), Lukasic, Glombiowski, Pachelsky, Kruszcynski (Lech Poznan), Merkel, Ludwig, Raab (CZ Jena), Pesidj, Yucel, Kemal (Sakaryaspor), Adiyou, Esipov (Metallist Kharkov), Van Tiggelen (Anderlecht), McDermott (Cardiff), Mavrides, Dimopulos, Nielsen (Panathinaikos), Krings (Avenir Beggen), Zanon (Metz), McCann, McConville (Glenavon), Studeny (Krems), Lemir, Lipovac (Borac Banjaluka), Roldao (Vitoria Guimaraes), Moravec, Weiss (Inter Bratislava), Selcuk, Csapo, Kvaszta (Bekescsaba), Hellviq, Meinseth (Bryne), Andersson, Hellstrom (Norrkoping).

Previous winners: 1961 Fiorentina. 1962 Atletico Madrid. 1963 Tottenham. 1964 Sporting Lisbon. 1965 West Ham. 1966 Borussia Dortmund. 1967 Bayern Munich. 1968 Milan. 1969 Slovan Bratislava. 1970 Manchester City. 1971 Chelsea. 1972 Glasgow Rangers. 1973 Milan. 1974 Magdeburg. 1975 Kiev Dynamo. 1976 Anderlecht. 1977 Hamburg. 1978 Anderlecht. 1979 Barcelona. 1980 Valencia. 1981 Tbilisi Dynamo. 1982 Barcelona. 1983 Aberdeen. 1984 Juventus. 1985 Everton. 1986 Kiev Dynamo. 1987 Ajax Amsterdam. 1988 Mechelen.

Winning totals: Anderlecht, Barcelona, Kiev Dynamo, Milan each 2; Fiorentina, Atletico Madrid, Tottenham, Sporting Lisbon, West Ham, Borussia Dortmund, Bayern Munich, Slovan Bratislava, Manchester City, Chelsea, Rangers, Magdeburg, Hamburg, Valencia, Tbilisi Dynamo, Aberdeen, Juventus, Everton, Ajax Amsterdam, Mechelen each one.

IT...

LEFT: Marco Van Basten will spearhead AC Milan's attack in the European Cup Final against Steaua Bucharest. ABOVE: Van Basten and injured team-mate Ruud Gullit ... with some essential reading.

UEFA CUP

Leading scorers: Gutschow (Dresden) 6 goals; Thon, Wegmann (Bayern Munich), Kirsten (Dresden), Galloway (Hearts), Solomon (Victoria Bucharest) each 5; Walter, Allgower (Stuttgart), Loinaz (Real Sociedad), Careca (Napoli), Altobelli (Juventus), Malbasa (Liege), V.Djukic (Partizan), Niederbacher (Waregem) each 4; Augenthaler (Bayern), Francini, Carnevale (Napoli), Minge (Dresden), Gaudino, Klinsmann (Stuttgart), Coras (Victoria Bucharest), Laudrup (Juventus), Repak (Velez Mostar), Meiger (Groningen), Serena (Inter), Varga (Liege), Janssen, T.Allofs (Koln), Zimmermann (Lok Leipzig), Mihajlovic (Dinamo Zagreb), Uralde (Bilbao) each 3; Ekstrom, Flick (Bayern), Maradona (Napoli), Kulcear, Cojocaru (Victoria Bucharest), Rui Barros, Galia (Juventus), Koutel (Velez Mostar), Jalo (TPs), Conti, Voller (Roma), Stopyra (Bordeaux), Groekelen (Groningen), Diaz, Berti (Internazionale), Ernes, Veyt (Liege), Pleva (FK Austria), Hobsch, Halata (Lok Leipzig), Butcher (Rangers), Andrinua (Bilbao), Takac (Dunajska Streda), Christiaens (Waregem), Glatzmayer (Vienna), Chalana (Benfica), M.Djukic, Vokri, Batrovic (Partizan), Paulinho Cascavel (Sporting), Pettersson (Ajax Amsterdam), Bittengel (Dukla), Robakiewicz (Legia), Eckstein (Nurnberg), Fridrikas (Zhalgiris Vilnius) each 2 goals; Nachtweih, Eck, Reuter, Wohlfahrt, Johnsen (Bayern Munich), Lieberaum, Kirschner, Pilz (Dresden), Renica (Napoli), Schroder (Stuttgart), Itturino, Loren, Goicoechea, Fuentes (Real Sociedad), Foster, Black, Bannon, Colquhoun, Ferguson (Hearts), Mauro, De Agostini, Bruno (Juventus), Lais, Ursu (Victoria Bucharest).

Previous winners (Fairs/UEFA Cup): 1958 Barcelona. 1960 Barcelona. 1961 Roma. 1962 Valencia. 1963 Valencia. 1964 Zaragoza. 1965 Ferencvaros. 1966 Barcelona. 1967 Dinamo Zagreb. 1968 Leeds. 1969 Newcastle. 1970 Arsenal. 1971 Leeds. 1972 Tottenham. 1973 Liverpool. 1974 Feyenoord. 1975 Borussia Mg. 1976 Liverpool. 1977 Juventus. 1978 PSV Eindhoven. 1979 Borussia Mg. 1980 Eintracht Frankfurt. 1981 Ipswich. 1982 IFK Gothenburg. 1983 Anderlecht. 1984 Tottenham. 1985 Real Madrid. 1986 Real Madrid. 1987 IFK Gothenburg. 1988 Bayer Leverkusen.

Winners' totals: Barcelona, Borussia Mg, IFK Gothenburg, Leeds, Liverpool, Real Madrid, Tottenham, Valencia 2; Ferencvaros, Dinamo Zagreb, Eintracht Frankfurt, Ipswich, Bayer Leverkusen, Anderlecht, Newcastle, Arsenal, Juventus, PSV Eindhoven, Roma, Zaragoza each one.

CUP-WINNERS' CUP FINAL
Barcelona v Sampdoria In Bern, May 10

BARCELONA will be popular favourites to become the first club to have won the Cup-winners' Cup three times when they face the final new boys from Genoa. But a Spanish victory is far from a foregone conclusion. Indeed, Sampdoria might be considered the more likely winners, despite the absence of suspended centre-back Pietro Vierchowod. Sampdoria are graduates of the hardest league school in Europe, boast the experienced guidance of Brazilian veteran Toninho Cerezo and the quick-silver striking talents of Gianluca Vialli, all orchestrated from the touchline by the vastly experienced Yugoslav, Vujadin Boskov. Back in 1981 Boskov was coach of Real Madrid, when they lost the Champions' Cup final to Liverpool. Now he is on the other side of the professional fence, with Spanish interests ranked against him. Yet Boskov is a much more wily old bird than Barcelona's Johan Cruyff at this level of psychological wits. Barcelona's strength lies in their own unpredictability. Until the match begins no-one can be quite certain what tactical cards Cruyff will play. He is as likely to use Gary Lineker at centre-forward as he is to leave him on the substitutes' bench. Two years ago Cruyff guided Ajax Amsterdam to their Cup-winners' Cup victory over Lok Leipzig. Whether this Barcelona side is any better than an Ajax team boasting Van Basten and Rijkaard is open to doubt. Also, Sampdoria are a very different proposition to an East German side who had surprised themselves by even reaching the final. Barcelona have been afflicted, over the years, by the jinx of losing the European finals they are expected to win. The jinx might just strike again.

UEFA CUP FINAL
Napoli v Stuttgart In Naples, May 3; in Stuttgart, May 10

DIEGO MARADONA at last has the opportunity to secure his place in European football's record books. The little Argentine has been playing in the old world since the summer of 1982 but all his continental efforts so far, first with Barcelona now with Napoli, have been unrewarded. Napoli now trail so far behind Internazionale in the Italian first division that the UEFA Cup — even more than their scheduled duel with Sampdoria in the domestic cup final — is the major chance of honours this term. Judging by the way they have disposed of Juventus and then Bayern Munich this spring, a comfortable victory is within their grasp. Stuttgart are surprise opponents, with Jurgen Klinsmann, though suspended for the first leg, hoping to go out on a high note before his expected transfer in the close-season to Italy. A solid defence relies on international goalkeeper Eike Immel and the solid Guido Buchwald, with Karl Allgower a goal-scoring sweeper or midfielder. Stuttgart are, however, a class below Bayern Munich in West German terms and that surely tells its own tale. The attacking skills of Maradona and Brazil's Careca should see Napoli to a secure lead by the final whistle in the first leg in their own Stadio San Paolo. Naples is buzzing with the continuing saga of whether Maradona and coach Ottavio Bianchi are talking to each other, and whether Maradona's back will stand the pressure of the occasion. But, as Bianchi has always appreciated, Maradona's immense pride in his own performance will carry him through whatever is going on off the pitch. This UEFA Cup Final should be no exception.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA . . . by BOB VAUGHAN

SLAVIA DUO — KUBIK ON ICE

THE Kubik and Knoflicek affair runs and runs, the Brussels match approaches and perhaps Sparta are faltering. At least the chances of a solution seem in sight for the runaway Slavia duo.

Knoflicek looks likely to sit out his suspension and wait to become a Ram at the Baseball Ground while Kubik will probably be put on ice for eight months when he returns to Prague.

Whether he will then be eligible for the World Cup or sharp enough after such a break remains to be seen but first the national squad has to qualify.

Dr Venglos has spent the winter in southern Europe with the pool of players from which the team will be chosen for the game in the Heysel Stadium and he was pleased with the way they performed in drawing with Fiorentina.

Goalscoring will probably be the problem and it is a pity Knoflicek has put himself out of the running.

In the league his former club stand eighth after a 2-1 win over Vitkovice in front of 4,908 spectators.

At the top Sparta's lead has been cut to three points following Ostrava's win over Dunajska Streda a week after taking both points in Plzen while a stuttering Sparta went down at the Telehne pole to a Slovan side which will just about escape the drop on its return to the elite.

Despite being six points behind Sparta, Nitra look a good bet for the second UEFA place after taking a point from Inter and defeating Slavia in Slovakia.

In the two second divisions, one the Czech national league, the other the Slovak, Ceske Budejovice and Bystrica each have useful four and three point leads respectively in their respective groups.

With a third of the season still to play, former Czechoslovak league campaigners Brno and Zilina look to have too much ground to make up.

Kosice are also unlikely to be represented for another year at top level. Lok are down to the third division and ZTS stranded in fifth place and pleased when crowds exceed 2,000.

They are little better above with neither the Slovan-Sparta nor Sparta-Dukla games interesting as many as 10,000 spectators.

With soccer so in the doldrums, a place in Italy is essential but far from certain.

EMILIO BUTRAGUENO of Real Madrid

REAL MA ARE THU

LEO BEENHAKKER deserved better than that.

Real Madrid's thumping defeat by Milan in the semi-finals of the Champions' Cup cast an unhappy shadow over the Dutchman's last couple of months in charge. After all, Madrid are set fair for their third successive league title success and have even taken a serious interest in the Spanish cup.

But Beenhakker took one gamble too many. Against PSV Eindhoven in the semi-finals he had won a famous tactical victory by replacing star striker Emilio Butragueno with wide-running Paco Llorente.

Against Milan in San Siro, with the first leg having ended 1-1, Beenhakker gambled again. This time he included both Llorente and Butragueno alongside Hugo Sanchez up front and sacrificed centre-back Miguel Tendillo.

Against players of the perception and invention of Beenhakker's Dutch compatriots — Marco Van Basten, Ruud Gullit and Frank Rijkaard — that spelled suicide.

The resulting 5-0 defeat equalled Madrid's worst (at the hands of Kaiserslautern in the UEFA Cup) in 34 years in Europe.

Beenhakker's impending departure had already been announced by president Ramon Mendoza. And, if it had not, then the massacre of Milan would have made it inevitable.

Anyway, Beenhakker had already admitted that his time was up. But there was never any question that he would see his contract out — contrary to ill-informed reports that he was dismissed on the way back from Milan.

Beenhakker said: "No-one can understand quite what it's like to be coach to Real Madrid. We have around 70 games a year, up to 100,000 fans for every home game and I never get home before one o'clock in the morning because of the endless round of interviews.

"One of the problems is that the people here always want more. If we 'only' win then we should have won with more style.

"If we win with style then we should have scored more goals. And so it goes on. I have been here three years and they have been successful for the club and for me.

"But I think it's best for the players now if someone comes along with fresh ideas."

Beenhakker went on: "The great thing about being Real Madrid coach is the atmosphere within the club. If a coach can't do well here, then he won't do well anywhere.

"I know my situation has been compared with that of Sven-Goran Eriksson at Fiorentina, or Udo Lattek, when he was at Bayern.

"They both found the pressures forcing them out. But my situation is a little different. I'm not tired of professional football, just being worn down by the special demands of this particular job.

"I'm not too tired to work as a soccer coach — just too tired to stay on with Real Madrid."

Beenhakker had no hesitation pinpointing the major challenge which will face his successor — whether that turns out to be John Toshack (Real Sociedad), George Graham (Arsenal), Aad de Mos (Mechelen), Vicente Cantatore (Valladolid) or some other charismatic coach.

Beenhakker said: "The lifespan of any successful team is four or five years. Then it's all change. That is the point at which Madrid have arrived now, and rebuilding means an awful lot of hard work.

"You have to push out players who are old favourites with the fans. Often it's the coach who goes because the emotional ties between the fans and the players are too strong.

"I had just that sort of situation with Carlos Santillana. He had given everything for Real Madrid but came the day when I had to say: 'That's enough.' I tell you, that is the toughest job of all and I don't know whether I could go through it all again several times over with the players I have worked with over the last three years."

Madrid suffered their first league

Olsen takes over at Brondby

MORTEN OLSEN, captain of Denmark in their thrilling dynamite years, is aiming to be national team manger by 1992.

The 39-year-old libero, still playing with 1FC Koln in the Bundesliga, has signed a contract to become coach of Danish league champions Brondby in January 1990.

He will win his 100th and last international cap for Denmark against Brazil in the Danes' centenary tournament which also includes Sweden.

Then Olsen, one of the most elegant and skilful players in the 1980s, will concentrate on a new

ORID MPED

SPAIN . . . by KEIR RADNEDGE

defeat just the weekend before the return in Milan. Beenhakker rested the likes of Chendo and Butragueno and used Paco Llorente and Rafael Martin Vazquez only as substitutes in a 2-0 defeat away to Celta in Vigo.

A 40,000 crowd saw the hosts secure victory with two goals from Amarildo — the first arriving inside the opening minute of the game.

Not that this defeat proved much advantage to pursuing Barcelona. Amid increasing speculation of dressing room unrest over coach Johan Cruyff's tactical dispositions, Barsa were held goalless at home by Valladolid.

That left them trailing three points behind a Madrid side who still had to fit in the remaining 47 minutes of their abandoned match against Osasuna.

The irony is, of course, that Barcelona — and not Madrid — have reached a European final in the Cup-winners' Cup. Gary Lineker, despite his erratic league form, has had plenty to say about that, including the first goal of the semi-final return against CFKA Sofia.

Yet surprisingly coach Cruyff kept him on the subs' bench for the all-important Nou Camp showdown against Madrid.

The result was a goalless draw with Barsa's most wasteful attacker in front of goal being new signing Julio Cesar Romero. The Paraguayan World Cup star was making his debut after a loan transfer from Fluminense of Rio but plainly found the pace of life in Spanish football a little too quick, initially.

Other men who just could not last the pace included Ladislao Kubala (dismissed by bottom club Elche) and Aimar (Logrones). Colin Addison held on at Atletico Madrid, where he has been offered a post for next season as No 2 to Javier Clemente.

Fenerbahce striker RIDVAN DILMEN ducks a challenge during his side's recent derby game with Galatasaray.

FENERBAHCE BATTLE

TURKEY

FENERBAHCE and Besiktas are involved in a fierce battle for the Turkish championship.

The country's top two teams from Istanbul clashed in a crucial derby last month, with Fenerbahce clinching a vital 2-1 win to end Besiktas' long unbeaten run this season.

Goals from Aykut and Hakan saw Fenerbahce home in the middle of a profitable sequence of seven wins in eight matches.

Fenerbahce went into the second half of the league programme having scored 78 goals and with their only dropped point being a 1-1 draw away to Ankaragucu.

Under Yugoslavian manager Todor Veselinovic, Fenerbahce play some spectacular soccer and tend to score a lot of goals thanks to an impressive midfield which normally dominates matches.

The top scorers are Aykut (21), Ridvan (16) and Hasan (14) but midfield men such as Oguz and Turun (eight goals each) frequently get in on the act.

Veselinovic reckons Fenerbahce are well on course for the championship.

"I think we deserve to win the league now," he says.

"We have the best players in the country, who all come together so well to play the game.

"They've already done more than we expected of them and I think we are capable of springing surprises in Europe like Galatasaray have done this season."

Gates are booming in Istanbul, particularly for the likes of Fenerbahce, Besiktas and Galatasaray.

Fenerbahce are currently averaging more than 28,000 and that means plenty of cash available to strengthen the team.

Veselinovic already has his eye on Klaus Augenthaler of Bayern Munich and has been promised the cash by the board if the club win the championship.

FINNS TO GO INDEPENDENT

FINLAND . . . by PENTTI HIETANEN

A DECISION to launch an independent soccer league in Finland in 1990 was made by the country's leading clubs just before the new season got under way.

Like in almost everything nowadays, the football in Finland is following the lead of ice-hockey, the country's number one sport in terms of public appeal.

In ice-hockey, an independent league has been operating since 1975.

With attendances showing hardly any improvement, Finnish clubs will be taking quite a bold step . . . but it could also prove a step from amateur football towards part-time professionalism.

An encouraging sign for the Finnish national side was the recent 1-1 draw with East Germany in Dresden.

The Finnish goal in the match was scored by Mika Lipponen with a slick overhead-kick. Lipponen was out through a groin injury for most of the autumn, but has now returned to action with his Dutch club, Twente Enschede.

Lipponen, 24, hopes to surprise a few people when the European Champions Holland visit Helsinki on May 31, for a vital World Cup match — and so does national coach Jukka Vakkila.

Says Vakkila: "We played badly in the 0-4 defeat to West Germany last September, but otherwise things have gone pretty well for us lately.

"We showed a lot of defensive discipline against East Germany and I can see a great improvement especially in our aerial ability.

"We couldn't catch the West Germans napping when they came here, simply because Beckenbauer had done his homework so well and his players were in a right mood.

"Hopefully, the Dutch will come here looking for easy points!"

DENMARK . . . by JIM HOLDEN

phase in his distinguished soccer career.

He said: "It will be a challenge, but it is one I am looking forward to.

"I would like to be considered for the national team job by 1992, when Sepp Piontek has gone."

He could hardly have been given a better start in coaching than the job at Brondby, who are trying to win their fourth title in five years in the Danish season which has just started.

The ambitious club's aim is to reach a European Cup semi-final by 1990, a feat never achieved by a Danish club.

Next season is their last chance, and if they do, Olsen will be at the helm.

Olsen has still to decide whether he will continue playing, but the possibility should not be ruled out.

In 1984 he was certain that 1985 would be his last season — and that he would never go into soccer management, but return to his paint shop in the tiny provincial town of Vordingborg!

Vejle, the bookies' favourites to provide a stern challenge to Brondby, will include Allan Simonsen and Preben Elkjaer.

FC TIROL RESUME IN FINE STYLE

AUSTRIA

FC TIROL resumed the championship play-offs in Austria in convincing style by beating the co-favourites FK Austria 2-0.

Over 17,000 fans in sold out 'Tivoli' stadium in Innsbruck saw a splendid match in which Tirol's defender Leo Lainer (25) was the star attraction.

The former international scored the "Goal of the day", possibly even the goal of the season, from well outside the penalty area into the top corner of the net.

Later he dived into a corner taken by the West German Hansi Muller and headed under the bar for the second goal.

Apart from Lainer, the former national team's stopper Bruno Pezzey and Muller were also outstanding.

Pushed

Tirol were then held to a 1-1 draw at home by First Vienna, but beat Wiener Sportklub 2-1 to establish a five-point lead over FK Austria and Admira/Wacker who had beaten Rapid and pushed them into fourth place.

In the big Viennese derby Rapid and FK Austria played a goalless draw and were booed and whistled off the field by most of the 16,000 crowd disappointed with the missed chances, on both sides.

The hero of the Austrian scene is still the veteran striker Hans Krankl who plays for Austria Salzburg in the promotional play-off group.

The 36-year-old continues to draw the fans in astonishing numbers.

Recently a gate of 15,000 cheered themselves hoarse as the greying "bomber" in his fifth game hit the decisive goal — this time in the last minute — for a 2-1 win over Linzer ASK.

Losing

The national team, preparing for the vital World Cup qualifying tie away to East Germany on May 17, played a couple of friendlies losing both narrowly.

FK Austria's captain and veteran Herbert Prohaska has "definitely" bade farewell to the international side. In the match against Italy, in which the Austrians relaxed and lost by a goal two minutes from time, he was the best man they had.

Prohaska, who became director of FK, received a standing ovation from the 23,000 crowd at the Prater.

Next, the Austrians slumped to a 1-2 setback against Czechoslovakia in Graz and now the criticism is mounting over manager Josef Hickersberger's tactical deployment and team selections.

SOVIET COACH IN BAVARIA

SOVIET UNION . . . by BOB VAUGHAN

TRAVEL broadens the mind, or so it seems, for top footballers and coaches at the moment.

Despite the beginning of the championship and a World Cup tie with East Germany on the horizon, Soviet chief Valeri Lobanovski was in Bavaria with his staff for an exchange of views with their West German counterparts.

It all seemed very cordial but a strange point in time for 'Loba' and 'The Kaiser' to interrupt their schedules for a 'technical gathering'.

Also on the move were the Dynamo Kiev 18-year-olds, participating in the Seventh Saint Jean de Luz International Tournament.

Several had not been out of the Ukraine much before and confessed that just being present was something never to be forgotten.

Back in the USSR, championship round four saw the old firm of Spartak, Kiev and Dnepr back at the top.

Dynamo, with new star Salenko, a 37,000 rouble buy from Zenith, the first ever such cash transfer, took Cernomorets to the cleaners with goals by Litovchenko (two), Demianenko and Protassov.

Salenko laid on the first and was seldom out of the game which Dynamo should have won by an even greater margin.

Off the field, the waltz of the coaches has already begun with the season but a month old!

Khubin has gone from Rotor Volgagrad after only three months following his side's bad start to the new season. The veteran Beskov, booted out by Spartak last season, has been nominated chief coach of the central committee of the Dynamo sports organisation.

It means he is a sort of overseeing coach of all the Dynamo football clubs. They may have something to say about what he might have to say in Tbissi, Minsk and Moscow, not to mention Kiev!

MICH IN TH

RINUS MICHELS has been fired as coach to Bayer Leverkusen.

Less than a year after his European championship triumph with Holland, the veteran Dutchman parted company with the deposed UEFA Cup holders.

Michels could have survived the disappointment of this season's early exit from the UEFA Cup at the hands of Belenenses, had it not been for Bayer's erratic form in the league.

A 2-0 defeat away to St Pauli which left Bayer in 12th position in the 18-club first division was the last straw. His contract was "terminated by mutual agreement" and youth team coach Jurgen Gelsdorf was appointed caretaker.

Michels, the seventh Bundesliga coach to lose his job this season,

PORTUGAL . . . by KEIR RADNEDGE

LATE VICTORIES BOOST BENFICA

BENFICA have been teaching the rest of the Portuguese first division the value of the old cliche that a match is never over until the final whistle.

Against both Leixoes and Braga the Eagles of Lisbon snatched victory in the dying seconds to maintain a six-point lead over FC Porto at the top of the table.

The victory over Leixoes was the most dramatic. Leixoes had only just sacked coach Antonio Morais when they arrived in Lisbon. But with three minutes remaining they were 1-0 ahead, only to lose 2-1, with Benfica grabbing the winner from a controversial penalty.

Two weeks later, again on home ground in Lisbon, and Benfica sneaked to a 1-0 victory over Braga thanks to a goal from Abel, scored two minutes into injury time.

Another victory over Braga, this time by 3-0 in the cup semi-finals, lifted Benfica closer to the double.

In the final they face Lisbon neighbours Belenenses, who piled further disappointment onto Sporting's collapsing season with a 3-1 victory.

Porto spoiled their attempts to keep in touch with Benfica at the top with a lot of squabbling. Skipper Fernando Gomes became entangled in a new disciplinary row and then so did Algerian forward Rabah Madjer after his late return from international duty.

In the managerial stakes Farense dismissed Malcolm Allison after a 2-1 home defeat by Braga, Maritimo of Madeira sacked Joaquin Ferreira da Costa while Vitoria Guimaraes and Geninho parted company.

Geninho was the 14th dismissal of the season.

Strenuous efforts

Whether Benfica will get Sven-Goran Eriksson back from Fiorentina is uncertain. Just before Benfica's recent presidential elections the incumbent, Joao Santos, produced an agreement providing for Eriksson to return to the club he steered so successfully in the early 1980s.

The Eriksson agreement no doubt had some effect, since Santos collected 81 per cent of the members' votes.

But whether Eriksson will be seen back in the Stadium of Light is another matter. His present Italian club, Fiorentina, having failed in bids to secure Mondonico (Atalanta) or Maifredi (Bologna), are making strenuous efforts to hold onto him.

Benfica say they expect Eriksson to fulfil his gentleman's agreement and honour the pre-contract he signed. Trouble is, the contract in question was signed not by Eriksson but by the Swede's business manager.

STEAUA ALMOST THERE

RUMANIA

NO team has one foot as clearly in a European Final as Steaua and there was unbridled joy among fans in Bucharest after the victory over Galatasaray, the Turkish surprise packet.

Even Colak and company could not repeat against the Rumanian champions the sort of result which unhinged Xamax Neuchatel in the infamous 'Battle of Istanbul'.

Almost as much on the mind of the Steaua management was the crucial league match with also unbeaten Dinamo.

As it turned out, Steaua managed to defeat their arch-rivals 2-1 and go two points ahead which may well mean the title again for the 'Stars'.

Still unresolved is the battle of the hot shots between Mateut (Dynamo) 24, Coras (Victoria) 21 and Hagi (Steaua) 21. With two fifths of the season still to go, it is anyone's guess but Mateut is having a remarkable season both for Dynamo and for the national team.

All will be pulling together when the championship pauses for the World Cup tie in Greece where avoiding defeat should be the minimum possible.

On form, Rumania should account for the home side who gave little trouble in Bucharest last November.

Thereafter, the Rumanian football world will be looking to Barcelona and another 'Spanish' triumph for Steaua.

ELS OUT E COLD

WEST GERMANY . . . by ARTHUR ROTMIL

had also been reportedly the best-paid — on £16,000-a-month plus free hotel accommodation and car. But his frustration at failing to develop the team's tactical approach was marked by some blunt public criticism which several of the players resented.

Michels said only: "Profitable co-operation was no longer possible between us. This is better for both sides."

Bayer's ambitious general manager, Michael Meier, who had been responsible for bringing Michels back to the club game, said: "The pressure of expectation after last season was just too much. I'm very sorry about what's happened. Michels is a great coach with real personality. An unusual man."

An unusual slip-up, too, by Bayern Munich as they carry on towards the league title.

Just when the majority of experts predicted an unchallenged run in the championship by Bayern, the leaders slumped to their first defeat of the season and saw their advantage cut from five points to three over pursuing Koln.

The 1-2 setback at Borussia Monchengladbach was greeted countrywide (except in Munich of course), with relief, because it heralds a probable tight finish and possibly saves a number of clubs from heavy financial losses, had the title race been decided prematurely.

Bayern, nonetheless, remain firm favourites thanks to their consistency. They were unbeaten in 23 league matches since the start of the season and this is a new record for the Bundesliga.

Team manager Jupp Heynckes says he wants Bayern to become the top club in Europe. But this can only happen if other superstars join the Bavarian outfit.

So long as foreign clubs are allowed to poach the best players even the well heeled and well paying Bundesliga clubs will be handicapped in competition with the Italians and Spaniards.

Bayern are pleased with the progress of the newcomer Erland Johnsen, a Norwegian who just turned 22, whose positional play, tackling and heading ability have strengthened the central defence.

Johnsen came from FK Moss, cost only £120,000 and has been paid a great compliment by Heynckes: "Erland could become another Schwarzenbeck" (Bayern's former European and World Cup winner).

Team captain and sweeper-cum-stopper Klaus Augenthaler, now 31, has also performed splendidly and has been called up by national manager Franz Beckenbauer into the squad again.

He already boasts 14 caps and was recently described by Maradona as "the best defender in the world."

Champions Werder Bremen, who have practically given up all hope of retaining the title, have problems with keeping some of their best players.

Norwegian international centre back Rune Bratseth (28) is being tempted by Italian clubs after approaches from Manchester United had been rejected.

Bremen claim Bratseth is not for sale, but it is an open secret that team boss Otto Rehhagel is already considering snatching Jens Duve (26) from St. Pauli Hamburg as a possible replacement.

Bremen's business manager, Willi Lemke, hit on an original idea which brought the club a bonanza.

In fact, he "sold" the match against the last-but-one Waldhof Mannheim to a French car maker for £40,000. Admission was reduced to £1 on the terraces and £2.50 for any seat.

A well-known singer entertained the crowd, while a Citroen car worth £6,000 was put up in a raffle!

Normally Werder could expect some 12,000 for such a game — this time 37,204 turned up — the season's best gate. And the club nearly doubled their receipts.

Trail

Hamburger SV has released the controversial former international defender Manfred Kaltz (36) who wanted to join the foreign trail at Bordeaux in France.

The 69-times capped experienced player who has recently established a new appearance record by playing his 533rd Bundesliga game and thus overtaking Klaus Fichtel (Schalke), felt he wanted to try foreign football, but a change of management at Bordeaux may well have upset his plans.

HSV, meanwhile, are delighted with the form of their attackers like Uwe Bein a 28-year-old midfielder, who was formerly among others, with Kickers Offenback and Koln.

But it is claimed that Bein wants more money before he decides for whom he wants to play next season.

Another HSV star is the Polish international Jan Furtok (27), who was signed from GKS Katowice and who played 17 times for his country; he is having language problems here.

Midfield maestro Thomas Von Heesen, who has apparently settled his differences and put his traumatic transfer failure (to Eintracht Frankfurt) behind him, is also in top form.

DRAW BETTER THAN A WIN!

SWITZERLAND . . . by ARTHUR ROTMIL

A BIZARRE statement by the Swiss national team manager Daniel Jeandupeux has sparked hilarity among some media writers, disbelief and a sharp rebuke among others.

The respected coach announced before the test match against Hungary in Budapest, that he would rather see a 0-0 draw, than a clear cut victory "because it would make my players complacent and arrogant, before the vital World Cup qualifying tie against Portugal".

Well, the manager got his wish — the impotent Swiss lost 3-0 and their performance was derided in the sports press as 'useless'.

In the championship play-offs the sensations are Young Boys of Bern who first beat the highly rated Grasshoppers by 4-1 away and then crushed Servette by 7-0.

It was the Geneva club's heaviest defeat for 45 years. Their West German star Karl-Heinz Rummenigge was quick to point out that when with Bayern Munich his team also lost 0-7, at home at that, against Schalke.

The Young Boys are now tipped to become champions for the 12th time in their history.

Their stars are the Swedish midfielder Anders Limpar (24) and the German Peter Kozle (22) who was once an amateur with Bayern Munich.

Kozle wants to return to the Bundesliga in fact.

The Swedish national team manager Olle Nordin who watched Limpar was most impressed and told him he will be picked for the friendly against Wales on April 26.

In fine form, too, for the "Boys" are the national team's sweeper-cum-stopper Martin Weber (32) and international striker Dario Zuffi (25).

In the promotion/relegation play-offs the former 13 times capped Scottish international striker Alan Brazil (30), who played for Ipswich, Tottenham, Manchester United and Queens Park Rangers, where he collected an insurance pay-off as a sports "invalid" and turned down a chance to play in Australia, is hitting goals again.

A hat trick for FC Baden in the 3-0 win over Etoile Carouge put him in the headlines again.

ARMIN ECK of Bayern Munich

BULGARIA

Germans' comeback shakes Bulgars

BETTER facilities are now available to the Bulgarian national squad for 'stages' before departure for abroad or the short ride to the Levski Stadium.

The new centre at Bankia, west of Sofia, will be the venue rather than Lake Pancjarevo, the Sredets out-of-town venue for training.

None of the preparation was of much use when it came to facing the West Germans in a friendly.

Despite going behind, Beckenbauer's team recovered to win 2-1 without being on song.

Ilyev had given the Bulgars the lead in front of a disappointing crowd of 30,000.

Interviewed after the match, striker Penev said it was an important pre-World Cup last test for both squads and his team had tried to hold on to its goal advantage, possibly an error against a team of such quality.

He agreed that winning the ball in midfield and retaining possession was something his somewhat inexperienced colleagues had not altogether succeeded in.

Much is expected of Penev playing with the Slavia forward Alexandrev. Both seem to think the tie with the Danes will prove a physical encounter, a vital game for both countries as, unless Rumania slip up at home, the group is theirs.

In the league, goalscoring has proved a problem and this was particularly the case on the twentieth day of the championship where only one match, Miner's home win over Spartak Varna, 2-1, produced more than two scores!

Penev leads the list with 21, the next best being his club mate Stoitchov and Alexandrov of Slavia, with twelve each.

Last season's champions, Vitosha, badly lost ground by going down in the 'Sofia Derby' to Sredets.

The leaders had struggled to draw away to Miner in a midweek match brought forward to permit a break before Sredets' visit to Barcelona.

But when they received Vitosha, it was a case of nerves and many fouls with an equally uncertain referee having difficulty in controlling a very physical game.

Sredets ran out 2-1 winners but there may be an FA enquiry at least into Mr Vassilev's performance.

In the European Cup Winner's Cup, Sredets will probably find a two goal clear win in the return more than they can manage. Scoring twice in Barcelona was probably more than expected but it looks as if it will be back to domestic football for the rest of the current season.

KATOWICE CHASE GORNIK ZABRZE

POLAND . . . by BOB VAUGHAN

POLAND'S championship field is still headed by Gornik Zabrze though not decisively with Katowice lurking only a point behind.

The leaders did not, however, have it all their own way in the coalfield battle with Bytom who are having a wretched season with only eleven goals and eight points to show.

'Little Gornik', Walbrzych, have also been overtaken by Jestrzebie who were virtually written off in the autumn but safety is distant for all three as four go down in the 1989/90 re-organisation and twelfth-placed Olimpia Poznan have six more points than Jestrzebie and Slask Wroclaw.

Ruch Chorzow, who spent their first and only season, out of the 'Elite Class' in 1987/88, seek a UEFA place. They could catch Katowice and certainly this famous club's popularity is reflected in gates for their games.

For Katowice's visit, there were 25,000 at the Ulice Cicha. Ruch took an early lead, through Waricha from a pass by Kowak, but Katowice hit back at once, Wijas equalising from Mocinek's corner.

The excellent Jojko kept Ruch out for the remaining hour so the draw means there is all to play for as far as the 1989/90 UEFA Cup goes and possibly the championship should 'Big Gornik' slip.

AJAX CLOSE IN AS PSV PANIC

HOLLAND . . . by SIMON KUPER

THE race for the Dutch league championship has become suddenly close with PSV Eindhoven just one point ahead of Ajax and fading fast.

Only a month ago, PSV were six points clear at the top and seemed to have secured their fourth successive championship.

The turning point was the league match in Eindhoven between the two sides.

The predicted result was an easy win for PSV, and a demonstration of their superiority over a very young Ajax side. It didn't happen that way.

Ajax won an excellent match 4-1, which provided PSV's first home defeat in the league since 1983, and since then, the Eindhoven club have dropped a further three crucial points.

To think that only last October, Ajax were lamenting their worst start to a season since 1964!

They took just five points from their first seven matches, and avoiding relegation seemed a more acute issue than fighting for the championship.

Ajax's recovery started when they sacked their disastrous manager Kurt Linder, who had come from unemployment in Switzerland to replace Johan Cruyff.

Linder, ignoring Cruyff's astonishing successes, refused to accept that his predecessor had left behind anything worthwile.

The West German physiotherapist mocked Cruyff's belief in total football (this after Holland had used that system to win the European Championship) and criticised him for fielding too many young players.

Accordingly, Linder signed mediocre veterans and made them play a kind of outdated catenaccio. This policy went hopelessly wrong.

To the players' relief, Spitz Kohn reversed it when he took over from Linder as caretaker manager — and thanks to him Ajax are back at the top of the table.

The team lacks the flair of the team of 1987, but is just as successful.

Kohn has been rewarded for putting his faith in young players.

Now that Jan Wouters is out with a long-term injury, the oldest player in Ajax's first team is 26-year-old Stefan Petterson. Even Arnold Muhren has been dropped to make way for youth.

The new team includes four teenagers: Bryan Roy, Frand de Boer, Dennis Bergkamp and Richard Witschge. Not one of them was a regular under Linder.

It is a mystery that even Linder could have failed to spot Bryan Roy's gifts. Everyone agrees that Roy, 19, is an exceptional player.

PSV would love to sign him. Ajax consider Roy the most talented young player the club has had since Frank Rijkaard and Marco van Basten made their debuts at the beginning of the 1980s.

The Amsterdammers accept that one day they will lose Roy to Italy but they expect a record transfer fee for him.

Bert van Lingen, manager of Holland's Under-19 team, raves about Roy: "His ball control is exceptional, truly exceptional, comparable to Gerald Vanenburg's, though Roy is left-footed.

"He also has speed, pure speed. He's never injured, which shows that he can avoid tackles perfectly; he's never off balance.

"I'm prepared to sacrifice my other ten players for him."

Roy is currently an outside-left, and he starred in that position in the recent victory over PSV.

Thijs Libregts, Holland's manager, is hoping that Roy will mature quickly enough to make his international debut in time for the World Cup in 1990. He would greatly enrich the current side.

KURBO TO LI

IT'S an ill wind that blows nobody any good. When Monaco lost Mark Hateley through a serious injury, Jean-Marc Ferratge (initially for six months) and Amoros (three games), things looked pretty bleak. But George Weah, young Petit, and Tony Kurbos, "The Joker", have brightened things enormously.

You may remember Kurbos as the key figure in that astonishing victory by Metz over Barcelona a few years ago in the European Cup Winners' Cup.

A Yugoslav with French nationality, he has since drifted about from club to club and was actually with Nice when Monaco took him on loan.

Contract

His response was brisk and positive. Very soon, he was scoring the winning goal against Strasbourg (including Simon Stainrod!) and Kurbos has been told by the President of Monaco, M. Campora, that if he does his stuff, he will buy his two year contract from Nice.

As for that lithe, quick, versatile striker George Weah from Liberia, we have spoken about him in this column before. The fact that Monaco already had three foreigners has limited the number of his appearances, but those of you who may have seen him come on at Tottenham not long ago in that friendly match will be aware of his skills.

At 22-years-old, tall and strongly built, Weah has now stepped into the breach left by Hateley with notable, goalscoring success. Strasbourg must be getting very sick of him.

He scored an early goal against them in the recent match and was the best player on the field. In the equivalent game at Strasbourg, he was in very good form.

Can Weah do for little Liberia, hardly a power in African football, what he is now doing for Monaco?

Cunning

They are in a difficult World Cup qualifying group, in which they must try to get past powerful Egypt. And there will be no Glenn Hoddle to ply him with cunning passes.

Hoddle, meanwhile, continues to score goals; another couple in the 4-2 home victory over Montpelier one of them, admittedly, a penalty.

S ON HAND T MONACO

FRANCE . . . by ANDRE DUCLOS

That same evening, Simon Stainrod knocked in two against the rocky Caen defence in Normandy, Graham Rix making one for Caen in the 3-3 draw.

Caen were two-up at half-time that evening. It doesn't say much for their defence, or for their chances of staying in Division One, to which of course they had only just been promoted.

Belated

That same night, Clive Allen scored for Bordeaux and Eric Black for Metz. Mo Johnston for once in a while didn't score for Nantes.

There is not much good news coming out of Matra Racing this year, but one piece was the belated return, after long absence through injury, of the player they have missed most; the powerful midfielder Luis Fernandes, whose lack has also clearly been felt by the French national team. Otherwise, it is all a story of disappointments and departures.

Enzo Francescoli, as we know, is almost certainly on his way, though whether it be to Lazio, to Roma or elsewhere is undecided as yet.

Lazio entered the lists where their eternal city rivals Roma seemed to have Francescoli tied up. Also off is the 25-year-old Dutch international defender Sonny Silooy, who is going back to his original club Ajax, on a seven year contract.

Spend

Utterly disenchanted is the Matra Racing goalkeeper, 28-year-old Pascal Olmeta. He says he has already been told he can go at the end of this season.

Several clubs appear to be keen on him, not only the likes of Nice and Montpellier, but some from Greece, as well. It wouldn't, he says, displease him to spend a few seasons out there.

He admits he isn't the keeper in vogue he used to be first at Bastia, then at Toulon, "where I spent two extraordinary seasons".

But then, how can a goalkeeper, above all players, hope to excel when he plays in a team — a club — in such a state of crisis?

Admitting that he has virtually wasted three years in a Paris where he longed to play, Olmeta finds it hard to put his finger on what went wrong. On paper, as he says, they had an outstanding team, "with super players like Enzo Francescoli; everything a club could dream of."

There is, he explains, a lack of foundation at Matra. "They asked everything of us players at once."

Part of the trouble seems, says Olmeta, to have been that of sheer distance; they were cut off from the club offices in Paris itself, fans were not allowed into training sessions.

"We have Matra written on our shirts, but we don't really know to whom we belong."

At the same time, strangely, Olmeta admits that if anything, the players are over-protected by the Matra group, too well paid on too long contracts, too comfortably cocooned. But it is not enough — and here we see that pro footballers, even today, are not in it always and simply for the money.

"I want to 'explode', give football back what it has given me", says Pascal.

Learned

We know that Enzo Francescoli, the Uruguayan, has complained, as has Nantes' Argentine, Jorge Luis Burruchaga, of the "coldness" of French football, the lack of surrounding passion and interest.

Burruchaga has recently said again that he has learned to live with this, that there is so much money flying around that it is simply a fact to be faced.

But Olmeta sympathises with Francescoli who, he says, came to Paris a star, about whom songs had been written, and who needed comprehension, support, sympathy.

Instead, he says, Francescoli was told you must play like this and like that; it would have been better to let him go off to play in Italy.

Another great mistake, he says, was to sign far too many players; 25 of them, all jostling for a first team place. Artur Jorge, the Portuguese coach then in charge, might have wanted this, but it was a mistake.

Happier noises come from Gabriel Humberto Calderon, the Argentine left winger who has had such a good season for the other Parisian club, Paris Saint Germain, but then Calderon had already settled in European football in Seville; which he never really wanted to leave.

His great move, he says, was when Betis brought him from Independiente to Seville in 1983. Adapting to Paris was no great effort, though the results, he admits, helped him.

He has no wish to leave Paris, he says. His contract ends in 1990, after a World Cup in which both he (recalled by Bilardo) and Burruchaga hope passionately to play for Argentina.

Then he will be free; and aged just 30.

ENZO SCIFO ... dropped by Belgium and Bordeaux.

SWEDEN ... by PENTTI HIETANEN

AIK STOCKHOLM LAND AN ACE

WITH more and more western clubs preparing to take a gamble on players from the Soviet Union, the Swedish first division club AIK Stockholm believe that they have landed an ace in the former Dynamo Kiev forward Vadim Yevtushenko.

Yevtushenko, now 31, won seven full caps for his country, appearing mainly as a tactical substitute during the World Cup finals of Mexico.

His greatest claim to fame is the third goal he scored for Kiev in their fine 3-0 win over Atletico Madrid in the final of the Cup Winners' Cup in 1986.

"Vadim has so much to offer," says AIK coach Sanny Aslund. "He is very fast, skilful and with a quick eye for a half chance. Our fans will love him."

But then AIK need to produce something special to grab back some of the limelight from their local rivals Djurgarden, last season's beaten play-off finalists.

While Roy Hodgson's Malmö once again look good for another league title, several experts will be keeping a close watch on IFK Norrköping.

They are, with 11 league championships to their name, one of Sweden's most famous clubs, having produced several star names like Nils Liedholm, Gunnar Nordahl, Julle Gustavsson, Sven Axbom, Hans Bild and Björn Nordqvist.

And, indeed, Sweden's current national boss Olle Nordin also used to play for 'Peking', as the club are fondly called.

However, a worrying fact for their coach Kent Karlsson is that Norrköping haven't won the league since 1963. Karlsson has made some useful signings for the new season in goalkeeper Lasse Eriksson (ex-Hammarby) and the Soviet midfielder Igor Ponomarev (ex-Reipas Lahti).

Also, importantly, international striker Jan Hellström will be staying with Norrköping after all. Hellström was the subject of several transfer bids from Greece.

With Sweden's crucial World Cup tie against Poland coming up, coach Nordin has had problems with injured players. The Ajax Amsterdam stopper Peter Larsson and winger Hasse Holmqvist, currently based in Italy with Cesena, will probably both miss the game.

GREECE

Detari goals close gap on AEK...

JUST when it seemed that AEK Athens would be running away with the First Division title in Greece, Olympiakos Piraeus have come alive and are breathing down AEK's neck.

Four goals by Hungarian star Lajos Detari — who leads the league's scoring race with fellow countryman Imre Boda of Olympiakos Volos, both on 14 — lifted Piraeus to a 7-2 drubbing of Volos at the Athens Olympic Stadium before 35,000 spectators last month.

Detari's performance came as rumours spread of his impending transfer to Italy next season.

The win lifted Olympiakos to within a point of league leaders AEK, who went down the same day to Apollon Athens by 2-1.

The 200 home fans were outnumbered by nearly 10,000 AEK supporters at the derby game but went home having had the last laugh.

The defeat meant AEK had conceded five goals in two games — as many as they had let in in 11 matches at the start of the season!

With the season winding down, AEK and Piraeus are battling it out for top spot with the losers set to go into next year's UEFA Cup.

Panathinaikos and Iraklis Salonica are contesting the second UEFA Cup spot as no other side can catch the top four.

Violence — or the threat of violence — continues to keep attendance figures low at First Division matches as only 66,260 fans turned out for the eight matches on April 9 which, together, is not even enough to fill the Olympic Stadium.

Other First Division developments have seen Levadiakos escape lightly after an official of the club attempted to bribe a referee.

Levadiakos will start next season on minus four points as their punishment from the sports judicial authorities.

The club thus have the chance to save themselves from relegation as the deduction of four points this term would almost certainly have cost them their place in Division One.

The Greek Cup Final on May 10 will be between Panathinaikos and Panionios.

The Greek Soccer Federation (EPO) have chosen Antonis Georgiadis as the national team's new manager.

He has signed a 15-month contract with the option of a further year's extension.

Georgiadis' first match in charge was the 1-4 home defeat by Yugoslavia in a friendly watched by just 5,000 fans at the Athens Olympic Stadium.

DISMAL SHOW IN DRESDEN WORRIES ZAPF

EAST GERMANY . . . by BOB VAUGHAN

ON the international front, East Germany's wins in Cairo over Egypt and the hosts' Olympic squad were followed by a friendly in Dresden with Finland.

Despite a bigger crowd than would have been likely anywhere except in football-daft Saxony, the East Germans put up a lamentable performance in falling behind before finally scraping a 1-1 draw.

Why certain actors can turn it on for their clubs but not when playing in the national team is a puzzle and one new manager Zapf has to solve quickly as visits from the Turks and the Austrians loom.

On current form, little looks likely to be gained from the away tie in the USSR and the Vienna match will not be easy. Then there is Sigi Held and his Icelandic squad waiting for revenge.

In all, it is not a very good prospect for the new team boss, appointed to manage the side to a place in Italy.

In the meantime, European Cup fever has taken over. Dynamo Dresden's UEFA Cup defeat by Stuttgart was disappointing but on the other hand, VfB could have put the whole tie beyond recall in the first-half at the Neckarstadion.

Teuber & Co withstood the pressure and better concentration and accuracy could have meant an equaliser from perhaps the three chances Sammer schemed.

Dropping points

So it was all settled in the second leg. For the quarter-final with Victoria Bucharest, Dynamo could have sold 95,000 tickets. For the semi-final, over a quarter of a million requests are reported.

Only 36,000 fit in to the Dynamo Stadium, a former athletics ground, but there was no thought of moving the match to Leipzig's Zentralstadion.

At home, Dynamo had a chance but history is against any East German side winning 2-0 when confronting a Bundesliga representative though it has to happen one day!

In the league, Dresden have got into the habit of dropping points but a 3-0 win in a brought-forward game at home to Lok restored an eight point advantage over second-placed Hansa.

The Rostock club are in line for a UEFA placing as third in the table BFC took the Cup and it is unlikely both FC K-M-C and Lok will overtake the Seasiders.

In the 38th FDGB (Trade Union) sponsored Final, BFC successfully defended the trophy against Karl-Marx-Stadt in front of around 35,000 spectators in the 'Stadium of World Youth', built by volunteers in the 1950s.

After the match K-M-S trainer Meyer, in charge previously at Erfurt and Jena, criticised the preparation of the pitch in the hope that whoever reaches the 'Endspiel' next year will not have to play on such a ploughed field.

Travelling fans

Certainly the quality of the game was very disappointing in a high, cold wind and the ball did seem to bobble remarkably often.

The underdogs, K-M-S, heavily supported by travelling fans, had little run of the ball and hardly managed a shot on Big Bodo's goal.

The enormous Rudwaleit, back in the national squad earlier in the season, was rarely called on to defend his charge.

Thom's goal in 57 minutes was enough and the only K-M-S threat came from former Lok striker Richter but his midfielders gave him so few bullets to fire it was never a contest.

Schmidt in the K-M-S goal had a fine match but was unfortunately at fault with the goal, advancing far too early on Thom who was coming at him from an angle.

Manager Bogs felt the win was deserved, though he had gambled on playing libero Rohde in midfield.

It might not have worked had K-M-S risked more but as he added: "We gave nothing away at the back and the game went according to plan."

In Division 2, Stahl Eisenhuettenstadt lead Group A and former 'Oberliga' side, Fortschritt Bischofswerda the southern, Group B.

They look set to replace Union Berlin and SR Zwickau, who have propped up the top flight all season. Stahl's only challenger is Dynamo Fuerstenwalde, a nursery for BFC who put SR out of the Cup in the autumn.

GIULIANI of Napoli.

MECHELEN continue their steady progress to land the Belgian Championship despite crashing out of the Cup Winners' Cup.

Although not as proficient in front of goal as challengers Anderlecht, they had the benefit of a water-tight defence.

With two games remaining, Mechelen have a four-point cushion which was sufficient to make even free-scoring Anderlecht think that the title was now beyond them.

The 26th and 27th rounds of the title race proved to be quite significant.

Mechelen, playing away to Lokeren, displayed their traditional resilience at the back and with Bosman scoring twice to complement Emmers' single strike, they were well pleased with their

MEDIA PI

HUNGARY'S captain Lajos Detari complained about pressure from the media after the 1-1 draw in Budapest against Malta, which leaves the country's World Cup qualifying hopes so questionable that elimination might be the better option.

A week in camp at Tata, west of Budapest, after the 3-0 win over Switzerland, who were inferior to the well-prepared, positive, untiring Maltese, seemed to have had little effect as Hungary, conceding a seventh-minute goal scored by Carmel Busuttil, lacked width and improvisation in their attacks.

A lucky penalty came four minutes

NTER RUNAWAY!

ITALY . . . by KEIR RADNEDGE

INTER are running away from the field at the top of the first division in Italy but centre-forward Ramon Diaz doesn't know whether to laugh or cry.

The centre-forward has not had an easy time of it since the heady days of 1979 when he partnered Diego Maradona in Argentina's World Youth Cup triumph in Japan. In those Diaz was rated not far behind his more famous partner in terms of potential.

But he probably left River Plate too soon, found adjusting to life — never mind the football — in Italy tough and spent four gloomy seasons with Napoli then Avellin before putting his career back together at Fiorentina.

Last summer luck smiled when, right on the transfer deadline, Inter plucked Diaz away from Florence to step into the attacking gap left by Alessandro Altobelli's switch to Juventus.

It was a desperation deal, as coach Giovanni Trapattoni has made clear in the number of occasions he has substituted Diaz during the course of a game.

However Diaz has also contributed six valuable goals to the campaign, which makes him Inter's third top scorer after Serena (league top scorer so far with 16) and Baggio (seven).

Inter are seven points clear of Napoli at the top of the table but Diaz's prospects of leading them into the Champions' Cup next season are not good now that speculation has been confirmed with Inter's agreement to sign West German Jurgen Klinsmann from Stuttgart at the season's end. Italian teams are allowed three foreigners and since Inter's other two are Lothar Matthaus and Andy Brehme it is pretty obvious that Diaz will be considered the odd man out.

Four teams will be relegated at the end of the season and the betting at the moment is on Pisa (17 points), Como, Cesena and Ascoli (all 18). Lazio are hovering just above the relegation zone.

But Torino climbed a little nearer safety with a 3-1 win over a confused Roma, who have recalled Nils Liedholm as coach after four winless weeks under youth coach Luciano Spinosi.

At least now it appears that Torino may be spared the stigma of relegation blighting the 40th anniversary of the club's worst moment — when the championship-winning side of the 1940s was wiped out in the Superga air disaster.

The championship has demanded the largest slice of concern and attention this season. But every now and again Azeglio Vicini and his national team pop up to remind the fans that there is more to next year's World Cup finals than the time-wasting squabbles of builders and politicians.

The latest test ended in a disappointing 1-1 draw against Uruguay in Verona. The one bright spot for Vicini was that Italy's goal was scored by Fiorentina's Roberto Baggio, playing his first full game for his country. Baggio is one to watch for next year.

MECHELEN'S TITLE

BELGIUM ... by IAIN McLEOD

day's work.

But the big match of the day was at Olympiapark, where defending champions Brugge, who have been out of the top four for the better part of the season, met arch-rivals Anderlecht in a clash the mauve-and-white simply had to win.

For Brugge, there was a UEFA Cup place to battle for, but by the end of the 90 minutes, both sides had to be content with a share of the spoils, Anderlecht in particular, grateful for Nilis's goal which kept their slim hopes alive.

Brugge then saw the gateway to Europe by means of the Belgian Cup loosened by an Anderlecht side who, in the more familiar surroundings of Parc Astrid, took a firm hold of the tie by winning the first leg 3-1, Krncevic scoring twice.

Mechelen stayed on course for the treble by drawing 1-1 away to Zwarte Leeuw and seemed set for a semi-final place along with the two Liege clubs.

Mechelen also gained a crucial home victory over Brugge, albeit by a single goal, a victory which was given added significance by Anderlecht's 2-2 draw in a poor show at home to St. Truiden.

By now, with seven matches remaining, Mechelen had stretched to seven points their lead over Anderlecht, with Antwerp maintaining their challenge for a place in Europe, a further three points adrift of the Brussels outfit.

A dropped point the following week was not the kind of medicine Mechelen were seeking prior to their make-or break clash with Anderlecht.

The championship was in its final throes, and with home advantage having been so decisive for the champions-elect all season, Mechelen knew that victory would extend to eight points the gap between them and Anderelcht.

Mechelen, whose chairman John Cordier is driven by the same vision as his Benelux collegue to the north, PSV supremo Jaques Ruts — to make his club the best in Europe — had a major boost recently when they persuaded international goalkeeper, Michel Preud'homme, wanted by some of Europe's top clubs, to stay in Belgium for another five years.

Still, even Preud'homme had no chance with the marvellous 78th minute free kick from Luc Nilis which gave Anderlecht a momentous win at Mechelen to open out the championship race.

Keshi, Anderlecht's Nigerian international, had given the visitors the lead in the 29th minute, only for Bosman to equalise eight minutes later.

Nilis's free kick, however, was a timely strike and reduced the deficit at the top to four points.

There is, however, one significant difference between the two sides: consistency.

This was emphasised the following week when Mechelen again forged further ahead courtesy of a 1-0 at home to Lierse . . . as Anderlecht shared two goals at home to Antwerp.

There is considerable speculation in Brussels at present as to who may succeed Anderlecht coach Raymond Goethals.

Not surprisingly, Aad de Mos is high on the list, as is his Dutch compatriot, Leo Beenhakker.

ESSURE AFFECTS THE HUNGARIANS

after half-time, converted by Imre Boda after Gyula Hajszan, on the side of the penalty area, was not required to be stopped by the Maltese defence.

It was Boda's third goal in five internationals but it almost counted for nothing as the visitors entered the Hungarian penalty area in two darting raids which should have brought goals in the 65th and 86th minutes.

Boda hit the crossbar a minute before full time but victory for Hungary would have been undeserved and given them inflated hopes of somehow contriving success from the four remaining matches, three of which are away.

Detari slipped back to Greece after scoring in the win over Switzerland, who conceded other goals to Ervin Kovacs and Zoltan Bognar and were unable to express ideas of how to attack.

Then he scored four goals Olympiakos Piraeus' 7-2 win over Olympiakos Volos, for whom Boda scored both goals, to leave the Hungarian pair equal leaders of the goal-scoring chart in championship matches with 14.

But after the Maltese debacle, and with a section of the public wondering whether the national team should be suspended from duty, Detari attempted to explain away the disappointment.

"If our legs are trembling in a match, it is because of the criticism," said the midfielder who is playing before 80,000 crowds in Greece and yet is afraid of the following day's newspaper comments.

"The newspapers are always criticising because they think our players are poor."

Hungary's manager Bertalan Bicskei said: "We lacked flair in the first half but after the break we had some pretty good chances.

"But the luck was on the side of the Maltese. We knew what they would play like but we had no luck.

"Our chances of qualifying really look bad but we won't give up.

"All the players are enthusiastic and are giving everything."

The much-postponed elections in the Hungarian FA were due to have taken place on April 18 before Hungary's friendly in Italy against the World Cup hosts on April 26.

What awaits the Hungarians in Dublin on June 4 when the Republic of Ireland will be desperate to win?

In the championship, MTK-VM manager Jozsef Verebes sprang another of his typical surprises by pulling Andras Torocsik out of the hat only for the ball artist to suffer a broken leg in his second match upon returning.

He had spent some time in Canada and France with Montpellier but should hardly be expected to strike fear through opposition defences now.

Even so, the blue-and-whites have 44 points from 21 matches and achieved a four-point advantage over leading goal-scorers Videoton, Ferencvaros and Vaco Izzo.

WORLD SOCCER'S GLOBAL NEWS SERVICE CONDUCT

OBITUARY

RENE GALLIAN, president of Marseille from 1972 to 1974, has died aged 70. Gallian was a fullback with Marseille in the 1940s and later a director on the board of controversial president Marcel Leclerc. Gallian retired for health reasons after two years as president. He died after suffering a heart attack while watching the television transmission of the Scotland v France World Cup-tie.

PIET KRUIVER, former Dutch international forward, has died aged 51. Kruiver played for PSV Eindhoven and Feyenoord in Holland and had a short spell in Italy with Lanerossi Vicenza. He scored 12 goals in 22 internationals for Holland and 133 goals in league competition.

GEORGE ROBLEDO, former Chilean international and Newcastle FA Cup-winning hero, dies in Chile aged 62. Robledo, born on April 14, 1926, played for Huddersfield as an amateur then turned professional with Barnsley before moving to Newcastle in January, 1949. In his three years at St James' Park he played in both the FA Cup-winning line-ups of 1951 and 1952. In 1951 Newcastle beat Blackpool 2-0 and in 1952, when younger brother Ted played alongside him, George scored the only goal in the Magpies' victory over Arsenal. George and Ted were born at Iquique, though their mother was a Yorkshirewoman. They also played for the top Santiago club, Colo Colo.

MONDAY, MARCH 13

ENGLAND: QPR manager Trevor Francis creates a furore by fining midfielder Martin Allen for leaving the team hotel on the eve of the weekend's important relegation match at Newcastle to join his wife in time for the birth of their first child.

SPAIN: Atletico Madrid president Jesus Gil presents ex-Bilbao and Espanol coach Javier Clemente as next boss. He will take over during the summer with Colin Addison continuing in caretaker charge.

TUESDAY, MARCH 14

ACTION: Bayern Munich beat Hearts 2-0 in their UEFA Cup quarter-final return for a 2-1 aggregate victory . . . in the South American club cup, Boca Juniors beat Universitario of Peru 2-0 to narrow the gap to one point at the top of group four. In Montevideo, Danubio beat Bolivar 1-0 and, in Santiago, Colo Colo beat Olimpia of Paraguay 2-0. In the all-Brazilian clash in group two, Bahia beat Internacional 1-0.

ENGLAND: The government's ID card suffers further, damaging, amendment in the House of Lords, extending the list of exemptions.

FRANCE: Yugoslav Zoran Vujovic transfers from Bordeaux to Cannes, thus rejoining twin brother Zlatko . . . Paris Saint-Germain beat Montpellier 3-2 in a first division game.

ITALY: Diego Maradona comes under media fire for attending the wedding party of a Naples family with Camorra (underworld) connections, a cousin (Luigi Giuliano) having been arrested the previous week on a murder charge. Maradona says: "I am an adult and I can associate with whichever people I like." . . . the state TV service, RAI, agrees a £30million four-year deal for exclusive rights to screen national team matches.

SWITZERLAND: UEFA confirm that the Cup-winners' Cup final may be switched from Lausanne to Bern.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

ACTION: In the World Cup qualifiers, Saudi Arabia beat Syria 5-4 . . . Brazil beat Ecuador 1-0 in a friendly in Cuiaba . . . in the European club returns there are victories Real Madrid (just!) over holders PSV Eindhoven, for Milan, for Galatasaray and for Steaua Bucharest in the Champions' Cup. Sampdoria, Mechelen, CFKA and Barcelona qualify in the Cup-winners' Cup while Dresden and Napoli win through in the UEFA Cup.

ENGLAND: ITV are to challenge, in front of the European commission, the claim by BBC and BSB to hold exclusive screening rights for England matches abroad. ITV also defies the FA and shows highlights of the Real Madrid v PSV Champions' Cup-tie.

ITALY: Swedish forward Dan Corneliusson is banned for two games for hitting an opponent during last weekend's game between Como and Lazio. Corneliusson had been brought on as a substitute only three minutes earlier. Also banned are Andrea Carnevale of Napoli, for one game, and Ascoli president Constantino Rozzi, for one month.

WEST GERMANY: Team chief Franz Beckenbauer calls Bayern Munich goalkeeper Raimond Aumann into his squad for the forthcoming friendly against Bulgaria.

THURSDAY, MARCH 16

ACTION: Stuttgart beat Real Sociedad on penalties in their UEFA Cup quarter-final second leg.

FRIDAY, MARCH 17

ACTION: Iran beat Bangladesh 1-0 in the World Cup Asian qualifiers.

FRANCE: Monaco midfielder Jean-Marc Ferratge is banned for six months for "manhandling the referee and verbal abuse" during the stormy league match against Nice. Manuel Amoros, who was also sent off during the game, is banned for three matches.

SWITZERLAND: The draw for semi-finals of the European club tournaments provides a Champions' Cup highlight with Real Madrid v Milan. Simultaneously UEFA announces the decision to switch the Cup-winners' final from Lausanne to Bern.

SATURDAY, MARCH 18

FRANCE: Marseille lose 3-1 at Cannes, their first defeat in more than four months. Defender Eric Di Meco is sent off in a match marred by hooligan trouble as 300 Marseille fans tear up seats, rip out fencing and bombard Cannes goalkeeper

FIOR FOR

Andre Amitrano with missiles. Five fans are injured and four arrested. Failure to win costs Marseille the chance of overtaking Paris Saint-Germain at the top of the table.

WEST GERMANY: Bayern Munich stretch their unbeaten league run to 22 games as they hold on for a 1-1 draw against Kaiserslautern.

SUNDAY, MARCH 19

ACTION: In the World Cup qualifiers, Guatemala beat Costa Rica 1-0 in the first match of the CONCACAF final section. In Oceania, Australia hold Israel 1-1 in Tel-Aviv despite having defender Wally Savor sent off for an 88th-minute foul on Ronnie Rosenthal.

HOLLAND: PSV, deposed in midweek an European champions, crash 4-1 at home to Ajax — their first home league defeat for more than five years. Winter (two), Pettersson and Verkuyl (penalty) score the goals which lift Ajax to within a point of the leaders.

ITALY: Inter beat third-placed Sampdoria 1-0 in Genoa to move four points of Napoli, who are held 1-1 away to Lazio in the absences of injured Maradona and suspended Carnevale.

PORTUGAL: Two goals in the last three minutes bring Benfica a 2-1 win over Leixoes and keep them six points clear of Porto.

MONDAY, MARCH 20

ACTION: In the World Cup qualifiers, North Yemen lose 1-0 at home to Saudi Arabia.

ENGLAND: The FA refuses to sanction a repeat of last year's Wembley pre-season tournament involving Tottenham, Arsenal, Milan and Bayern Munich. The grounds for the refusal are obscure, although it is thought the FA are concerned about the commercial manipulation of the event.

ITALY: National manager Azeglio Vicini recalls Luigi De Agostini and Luca Fusi for the forthcoming central European 'tour matches' against Austria and Rumania. Squad: Tacconi, Zenga; F.Baresi, Bergomi, Ferrara, Ferri, De Agostini; Berti, Crippa, De Napoli, Donadoni, Fusi, Giannini, Marocchi; Baggio, Borgonovo, Mancini, Serena, Vialli.

MALTA: Manager Horst Heese calls up uncapped Bernard Licari and Simon Sammut for the World Cup tie against Spain. Squad:

THE MONTH AHEAD: May

*denotes World Cup qualifying tie

2. 5.89	Uli Stielike Farewell (Neuchatel)
3. 5.89	UEFA Cup Final 1st leg
3. 5.89	Mexico v Chile/f (Los Angeles)
4. 5.89	Paraguay v Argentina/f (Guayaquil)
5. 5.89	El Salvador v Chile/f (Los Angeles)
6. 5.89	U:Sweden v Poland
7. 5.89	Sweden v Poland*
9. 5.89	Czechoslovakia v Luxembourg*
9. 5.89	U:Turkey v Soviet Union
10. 5.89	Turkey v Soviet Union*
10. 5.89	Brazil v Peru/f (Salvador)
10. 5.89	Chile v Uruguay/f
10. 5.89	Cup-winners' Cup Final (Lausanne)
13. 5.89	United States v Trin/Tobago*
15. 5.89	Giresse Farewell: Bordeaux v Europe XI
16. 5.89	Norway v Cyprus*
16. 5.89	U:East Germany v Austria
16. 5.89	U:Denmark v Greece
16. 5.89	U:Rumania v Bulgaria
17. 5.89	Rumania v Bulgaria*
17. 5.89	Denmark v Greece*
17. 5.89	East Germany v Austria*
17. 5.89	UEFA Cup Final 2nd leg
20. 5.89	East Germany v Austria/f (Leipzig)
20. 5.89	FA Cup Final
20. 5.89	Scottish Cup Final
21. 5.89	Indonesia v N.Korea*
21. 5.89	Hong Kong v Japan*
23. 5.89	England v Chile/Rous Cup (Wembley)
23. 5.89	Malaysia v Nepal* (in S.Korea)
23. 5.89	Singapore v S.Korea* (in S.Korea)
23. 5.89	Uli Stielike testimonial (Xamax Neuchatel v World XI)
24. 5.89	Peru v Brazil/f (Lima)
24. 5.89	Champions' Cup Final (Barcelona)
25. 5.89	Malaysia v Singapore* (in S.Korea)
25. 5.89	Nepal v S.Korea* (in S.Korea)
26. 5.89	N.Ireland v Chile/f
26. 5.89	U:Luxembourg v Belgium
27. 5.89	Hong Kong v N.Korea*
27. 5.89	Singapore v Nepal* (in S.Korea)
27. 5.89	S.Korea v Malaysia* (in S.Korea)
27. 5.89	Scotland v England/Rous Cup
27. 5.89	Belgium v Yugoslavia/f
28. 5.89	Trin/Tobago v Costa Rica*
28. 5.89	China v Bangladesh*
28. 5.89	Rep.Ireland v Malta*
28. 5.89	Indonesia v Japan*
30. 5.89	Scotland v Chile/Rous Cup (Hampden, Glasgow)
30. 5.89	U:Finland v Holland
30. 5.89	U:Iceland v West Germany
31. 5.89	Soviet Union v Iceland*
31. 5.89	Wales v West Germany*
31. 5.89	Finland v Holland*
31. 5.89	Norway v Austria/f (Oslo)
31. 5.89	U:Spain v Cyprus

BY KEIR RADNEDGE

ENTINA GO LINEKER

WORLD SOCCER DIARY

Cluett, Cini; Alex Azzopardi, Buttigieg, Edwin Camilleri, Galea, Silvio Vella; Caushi, Degiorgio, Sammut, Scerri, R.Vella; Carabott, Gregory, Busuttil, Licari.

TURKEY: Galatasaray ask UEFA for permission to play their home-ban Champions' Cup semi-final against Steaua Bucharest in Izmir.

WEST GERMANY: National manager Franz Beckenbauer learns that Italian-based Matthaus, Berthold, Brehme and Voller will be available for the friendly in Bulgaria. But Mill and Klinsmann are injured and veteran Klaus Allofs has turned down suggestions of a return to duty. Allofs has not played for West Germany since being injured before last year's European championship finals . . . in Munich 5,000 fans of Bayern form a 600-yard queue to buy tickets to see the UEFA Cup semi-final second leg against Diego Maradona's Napoli. Official Markus Hoerwick says: "We've never seen anything like this — it's crazy."

TUESDAY, MARCH 21

ACTION: In the South American club cup, Boca Juniors win group four thanks to a 4-3 victory over Sporting Cristal, Penarol go top of group five with a 1-0 home win over Bolivar, and Internacional beat Maritimo of Venezuela 3-0 in group two.

PORTUGAL: Struggling Farense sack veteran English coach Malcolm Allison after less than two months in charge.

SPAIN: Real Madrid announce they expect receipts of £1.5million from their Champions' Cup semi-final first leg against Milan. TV and advertising are expected to bring in an extra £425,000 and £100,000 respectively.

WEST GERMANY: Bayern Munich complete the sale of all their tickets for the Maradona/Napoli visit. A capacity 72,300 crowd is expected but a club spokesman says: "We could have sold a quarter of a million tickets." . . . in the league, Martin Kree scores both goals as Bochum beat Stuttgart Kickers 2-1.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

ACTION: Friendly match action sees East Germany draw 1-1 with Finland, Holland beat the Soviet Union 2-0 in a European Final repeat and Bulgaria go down 2-1 at home to West Germany . . . Italy and Hungary draw 2-2 in an under-21 international.

COSTA RICA: National manager Gustavo de Simone, a Uruguayan, is dismissed in the wake of the weekend World Cup defeat by Guatemala. Antonio Moyano Reina, a Spaniard, takes over.

FRANCE: More trouble for crisis-hit Racing as they are beaten 1-0 at home by Rennes in a French cup second round first leg match.

ITALY: Fiorentina officials make their first tentative inquiries about the possibility of buying Gary Lineker from Barcelona.

TURKEY: Old enemies Fenerbahce and Galatasaray draw 2-2 in a Turkish cup quarter-final first leg. Galatasaray recover from 2-0 down thanks to two second-half strikes from Tanju Colak, last year's Golden Boot winner.

THURSDAY, MARCH 23

ACTION: In the World Cup qualifiers, Spain beat Malta 4-0 in Seville. Michel and Manolo both score twice. In a European under-21 tie, Spain beat Cyprus 1-0 . . . in an all-Colombian exhibition match in Miami, Millonarios of Bogota beat Atletico Nacional 2-1.

ITALY: Representatives of the Czechoslovak federation and officials of Fiorentina and Derby settle down to negotiations to resolve the impasse over runaway internationals Lubos Kubik and Ivo Knoflicek. Fiorentina had agreed a transfer for Kubik with Slavia Prague and it seems likely that is where he will end up — as long as he agrees to return home to undertake military service . . . Zico arrives in Italy for the farewell match which can now be staged after the lifting of a jail sentence imposed on Zico in his absence for financial irregularities over his transfer to Udinese in 1983.

SWITZERLAND: FIFA, catching the 'green' mood, appeals for reductions in the use of the 'magic spray' because they contain propellant gas believed harmful to the ozone layer.

WEST GERMANY: Michael Frontzek agrees to leave Borussia Moenchengladbach at the end of the season to join Stuttgart for £600,000 . . . Reinhardt Saftig is appointed by relegation-threatened Hannover as their third coach this season. He replaces Hans Siemensmeyer . . . Bayer Leverkusen midfielder and skipper Wolfgang Rolff says he has agreed terms to join Genoa at the end of the season . . . in the northern derby, St Pauli are beaten 2-1 at home by crosstown rivals Hamburg.

FRIDAY, MARCH 24

GREECE: Antonis Georgiadis is appointed national manager in succession to Miltos Papapostolou, who was dismissed after a World Cup defeat by Rumania last autumn.

ITALY: Nils Liedholm, ousted in February as Roma coach, is reappointed following a string of even more depressing results under caretaker Luciano Spinosi. Roma, who lost 1-0 to Pisa at the weekend, have yet to win a match this year . . . Verona's Argentine star Claudio Caniggia, currently out of action with a broken ankle, makes a judicial statement to a judge investing cocaine trafficking and use. The city of Verona had been revealed the previous week as a cocaine trade centre in Italy . . . Como's Brazilian forward Milton injures his left knee in a car crash. Also injured as passengers Robertson and Diogenes, both of whom have been undergoing trials with Como. Diogenes is admitted to hospital with a broken collar bone . . . FIFA president Joao Havelange, interviewed in Italy, says that Italy, Argentina, Brazil, West Germany, Belgium and France will be seeds (if they all qualify) for the World Cup finals next year. Havelange envisages Spain and England as 'standby' seeds.

SWITZERLAND: Hearts are fined £45,000 by UEFA for allowing a live transmission of their UEFA Cup quarter-final against Bayern Munich, against the express wishes of the West German and Scottish authorities. Hearts are also ordered not to sell TV rights for any European match in the season for which they next qualify. Napoli are fined £25,000 for spectator misconduct at the UEFA Cup-tie against Juventus. Toughest player sanctions are imposed on Dragan Babic and Dusko Vlaisavljevic, of Rad Belgrade. Both are barred from UEFA competition sine die for attacking the referee at last summer's Inter-Toto match against Carl Zeiss Jena of East Germany. Team-mate Milan Dorovic is banned for eight years skipper Goran Jovanovic for three years. Other player bans include four-match suspensions on Dresden's Ulf Kirsten and Sampdoria's Amadeo Carboni. Clubs fined for spectator misconduct at European ties include Galatasaray (£10,000, Roda Kerkrade (£8,000) and Stuttgart (£2,800).

SATURDAY, MARCH 25

ACTION: A late goal brings Italy a 1-0 victory over Austria in a Vienna friendly . . . in the South American club cup, Bahia beat Tachira 4-1, Racing beat Sporting Cristal 2-1 and Penarol are held 1-1 in Montevideo by The Strongest.

SUNDAY, MARCH 26

HOLLAND: PSV pull themselves out of the post-Europe doldrums with a 5-0 away win over Pec Zwolle.

PORTUGAL: No change at the top as Benfica, Porto and Boavista all win.

SPAIN: Hugo Sanchez scores his 19th league goal of the season as champions Real Madrid extend their unbeaten run to 25 games by defeating Valladolid 3-2 in Madrid. Two goals by Julio Salinas carry Barcelona to victory over Betis and keep them within three points of Madrid at the top.

TUESDAY, MARCH 28

ACTION: In the South American club cup, Internacional beat Union Tachira 3-1 but the result is immaterial as Bahia have already clinched top spot in group two with Tachira and Internacional joining them in the second round . . . in Zico's belated Italian farewell/testimonial match at Udine, a Rest of the World XI beat a Brazilian Exports XI 2-1. The Exports are managed by new Brazilian national manager, Sebastiao Lazaroni.

WEST GERMANY: Leverkusen's Wolfgang Rolff suddenly changes his mind about an end-of-season move to Genoa and agrees terms with Strasbourg instead. Genoa apparently could not, or would not, raise the £800,000 fee . . . in the cup quarter-finals Borussia Dortmund beat Karlsruhe 1-0, Stuttgart thrash Kaiserslautern 4-0 and Leverkusen beat Bayer cousins Uerdingen 2-0.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29

ACTION: In friendly internationals, Rumania beat Italy 1-0 and Greece lose 1-0 to Turkey, in the first match in Greece between the two bitter neighbours since 1952 . . . in the South American club cup, Cobreloa and Colo Colo draw 2-2 in Chile, Boca Juniors beat fellow Argentines Racing Club 3-1.

FRANCE: A new transfer storm blows up over the shock agreement of Bordeaux to loan veteran international Jean Tigana to Marseille for the rest of the season. A few weeks earlier Eric Cantona was sent on loan in the other direction . . . in the cup second round, second leg ties, Rennes beat Racing Paris 2-1 to complete a surprise 3-1 aggregate win. Little Beauvais, shock conquerors of Bordeaux in the first

● *Continued overleaf*

WORLD SOCCER'S GLOBAL NEWS SERVICE CONDUCT

● Continued from previous page

round, beat first division strugglers Lens 2-0 (2-1 overall).

ITALY: The disciplinary commissions hands out one-match bans to Edu (Torino), Roberto Galia (Juventus), Carlo Ancelotti (Milan) and Roberto Baggio (Fiorentina).

SPAIN: The European Broadcasting Union agrees to pay £60million for television rights to the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona. This suggests that some sort of settlement is already in view, if only privately as yet, in the row over the eligibility rules for soccer at the Games . . . Barcelona agree terms to sign the Paraguayan World Cup star Julio Cesar Romero, known as Romerito, from Fluminense of Rio . . . in the Spanish cup quarter-final first legs, Barcelona are surprisingly held 3-3 at home by Atletico Madrid, for whom Baltazar scores a hat-trick. Hugo Sanchez scores two more goals as Real Madrid outclass Celta 4-1.

WEST GERMANY: Werder Bremen complete the cup semi-final line-up thanks to a 1-0 away victory over Hamburg.

THURSDAY, MARCH 30

ACTION: Syria and Saudi Arabia, joint leaders of Asian group two in the World Cup qualifiers, draw 0-0 in Lattakia in front of a 50,000 crowd. The Saudis play the last hour with ten men after the expulsion of Yousef Thanyan.

ITALY: A Fiorentina spokesman formally confirms the club's attempts to buy England's Gary Lineker from Barcelona and Czechoslovakia's runaway Lubos Kubik from Slavia Prague . . . Brazil winger Muller says he wants a transfer from Torino at the end of the season. Muller makes his statement after collecting yet another club fine, this time for missing training after visiting Brazil national team colleagues at Udine for the Zico testimonial.

PORTUGAL: The UEFA executive meeting at which the English plea regarding the clubs' re-entry to Europe is to be heard, is switched to Palmela, near Lisbon. The meeting had been due to take place on Madeira but the Portuguese federation now realised this presented too many travel complications.

RUMANIA: Dinamo Bucharest's skipper and international centre-back, Ion Andone, is banned until the end of the season by the federation for insulting the referee after Dinamo's 2-1 defeat by Steaua. It was Dinamo's first league defeat of the season.

SCOTLAND: Rangers announce £12million plans to further develop Ibrox . . . Celtic announce the visit of Moscow Dynamo for a pre-season friendly on August 5. Dynamo will then face Wolves on August 8.

FRIDAY, MARCH 31

FRANCE: The French federation refuses permission for the loan-transfer of Jean Tigana from Bordeaux to Marseille. Marseille president Bernard Tapie says he will go to the courts of justice, if necessary, to have the decision overturned. The federation say they do not oppose the principle of Marseille signing a substitute for injured Senegal forward Abdoulaye Diallo, but Tigana should not be considered a 'replacement'.

ITALY: Lubos Kubik signs a three-year contract with Fiorentina, who will pay Slavia Prague a £900,000 transfer fee. Kubik also agrees to return forthwith to Czechoslovakia to be reunited with his family, submit to a federation disciplinary hearing and undertake his national service.

SATURDAY, APRIL 1

AUSTRIA: The Vienna derby ends in a goalless draw between Rapid and FK Austria. This is ideal for leaders Tirol, who are held 1-1 at home by Vienna. Tirol thus remain five points clear of FK Austria and six clear of Rapid.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: Lubos Kubik is driven back to Prague for Italy by Czechoslovak federation president Rudolf Kocek and secretary Rudolf Bata.

EAST GERMANY: Dynamo Berlin retain the cup with a 1-0 victory over Karl-Marx-Stadt. Andreas Thom scores the only goal in the 57th minute.

FRANCE: Marseille, refused Jean Tigana, sign Montpellier midfielder Gerard Bernardet on loan from until the end of the season. Bordeaux agree to purchase veteran West German World Cup defender Manni Kaltz from Hamburg at the end of the season . . . Paris Saint-Germain maintain a two-point lead over Marseille with their 1-0 defeat of Nice. On a good day for British imports, Simon Stainrod scores twice for Strasbourg in the 3-3 draw at Caen while Clive Allen scores in Bordeaux's 2-2 home draw against Racing.

ITALY: The Italian bank handling World Cup ticket sales begins selling tickets abroad through branches in 22 countries in Europe, South America, the Far East and Saudi Arabia . . . Napoli, moving their match forward a day because of their forthcoming UEFA Cup semi-final, suffer a shock 4-2 home defeat by Juventus — the club they beat in the UEFA Cup quarter-finals. Napoli, without injured Diego Maradona, lose despite opening the scoring through Fernando De Napoli in the fifth minute.

SPAIN: Romerito makes his debut for Barcelona in the toughest environment of all, against Real Madrid. He misses two half-chances in a goalless draw which confirms Madrid's league leadership and infuriates the Catalan crowd because Barsa coach Johan Cruyff keeps Gary Lineker on the substitutes' bench.

SWITZERLAND: Servette's disastrous run in the championship division continues as they are thrashed 7-0 by Young Boys.

WEST GERMANY: Bayern Munich suffer their first defeat of the West German league programme, going down 2-1 away to old rivals Borussia Monchengladbach in their 24th league game of the season. Borussia win despite conceding an early goal to Johnny Ekstrom and despite having to substitute both goalkeeper Criens and defender Winkhold because of injuries early in the game.

SUNDAY, APRIL 2

ACTION: In the World Cup qualifiers, Costa Rica gain a revenge 2-1 win over Guatemala and New Zealand upset Australia's hopes with a 2-0 win over the Socceroos in Auckland in the Oceania qualifiers.

ARGENTINA: Boca lose 2-1 at home to Independiente, who thus pull level with them on points at the top of the table.

BELGIUM: Mighty Mechelen, apparently impregnable in league and Cup-winners' Cup, suffer only their second defeat of the season when they go down 2-1 at home to Anderlecht. Mechelen still lead their rivals by four points.

CHINA: Hooligan violence in China where more than 1,000 fans rampage through the streets of Guiyang. Their anger was aroused by a 2-1 win by Liaoning province over Dali province in which the teams appeared to have decided on the outcome in advance. This is the third major hooligan incident in China in a year.

GREECE: No fewer than three penalties are missed in Panionios' 3-1 win over Ethnikos — one by Panionios and two by Ethnikos, all in the space of five minutes shortly after half-time. Panionios' hero in the end is new striker Theodorus Zakkas, who collects a hat-trick.

HOLLAND: More trouble for PSV. This time they lose 1-0 at home to Sparta and Ajax, 4-1 away victors over Groningen, move to within two points of them at the top of the table. PSV's defeat is their first by Sparta in the league for 17 years.

ITALY: Inter take decisive advantage of Napoli's slip-up the previous day. Lothar Matthaus scores twice as Inter beat Como 4-0 to extend their top-of-the-table lead to six points. Roma celebrate the return of Nils Liedholm by recording their first win of the year, a 1-0 success over Cesena.

YUGOSLAVIA: Dinamo Zagreb are fined £250 by the federation after hooligan trouble when spectators rioted during last Monday's match against Partizan Belgrade when seven fans were seriously injured and 36 arrested.

MONDAY, APRIL 3

SWITZERLAND: FIFA president Joao Havelange meets International Olympic Committee president Juan Antonio Samaranch in a private lunch to try to resolve the impasse over soccer eligibility rules at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics . . . UEFA reject a Sampdoria appeal against a four-match ban imposed on midfielder Amadeo Carboni, who was sent off in the Cup-winners' Cup quarter-final first leg against Dinamo Bucharest.

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TUESDAY, APRIL 4

ACTION: In friendly international action, Hungary beat Switzerland 3-0 in Budapest . . . in the Cup-winners' Cup Barcelona beat CFKA Sredets 4-2 in Nou Camp after going behind to an early striker from Hristo Stoichkov. Gary Lineker scores on his return to first-team duty for Barsa . . . in Dubai, Celtic beat Liverpool 4-2 on penalties after a 1-1 draw to claim the unofficial British championship . . . back on Merseyside, Everton beat Howard Kendall's Bilbao 1-0 in the Kevin Ratcliffe testimonial.

DENMARK: Brondby announce that veteran international Morten Olsen, currently playing in West Germany with Koln, will take over as club coach next January. At a press conference Olsen says his ultimate ambition is to succeed Sepp Piontek as national manager.

ENGLAND: Derby say they intend to claim compensation against the Czechoslovak federation for supporting regretful runaways Lubos Kubik and Ivo Knoflicek since their attempted defection last year.

FRANCE: Marseille go top of the table thanks to a 1-0 win over Nantes. The goal is scored by Jean-Pierre Papin from a 46th-minute penalty.

HOLLAND: More trouble for PSV as Czechoslovak star Josef Chovanec tears a calf muscle in training. He will miss up to three Dutch league games as well as Czechoslovakia's World Cup tie against Belgium.

ITALY: The government extends until June 5, 1990, the deadline for the completion of infrastructure and stadia work for the World Cup. That is just three days before the finals are due to begin in Milan. Heavy financial penalties will be levied on companies who miss the deadline. The state prosecutor in Rome begins an investigation into why modernisation work on the Stadio Olimpico — which will host the Final — will cost £75 million, almost double the original estimate.

RUMANIA: The Rumanian federation confirms that Steaua veterans Tudorel Stoica and Victor Piturca will transfer to French club Lens at the end of the season . . . there is anger at the border as officials turn back Turkish fans in possession of all the necessary

BY KEIR RADNEDGE

BY SEEKING PENSATION

WORLD SOCCER DIARY

travel documents, as well as match tickets, for the Steaua v Galatasaray Champions' Cup-tie in Bucharest.

SWITZERLAND: UEFA rejects appeals from Galatasaray and Napoli against fines levied for crowd misbehaviour.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5

ACTION: In the World Cup qualifiers, Saudi Arabia beat North Yemen 1-0 in the Asian section . . . in the Champions' Cup semi-final openers, Milan force a 1-1 draw away to Real in Madrid but Steaua Bucharest trounce Galatasaray 4-0. In the Cup-winners' Cup, Mechelen squeak a 2-1 home win over Sampdoria. In the UEFA Cup everything remains wide open after Napoli beat Bayern Munich 2-0, and Stuttgart beat Dresden 1-0.

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

FRANCE: Paris Saint-Germain suffer the kind of cup giant-killing which is usually associated only with English football: they lose 4-0 at home to second division Orleans in a third round, first leg tie. This equals PSG's heaviest home defeat in the Parc des Princes. National team keeper Joel Bats is badly at fault with the second goal when he loses the ball after trying to dribble round an opponent outside his penalty area.

WEST GERMANY: More disappointment for Bayern Munich as the league leaders are held goalless by reigning champions Werder Bremen.

SUNDAY, APRIL 9

ACTION: In the World Cup qualifiers, Israel are held 2-2 by New Zealand.

ARGENTINA: Independiente sneak ahead of Boca Juniors at the top of the table. Both clubs win, but while Independiente score a 'clean' 1-0 victory over San Lorenzo, Boca are forced to resort to a penalty shoot-out to defeat Platense 1-1 (6-5).

ENGLAND: Nottingham Forest collect the first trophy of the season, beating Luton 3-1 in the Littlewoods/League Cup Final.

GREECE: Lajos Detari scores four times at Olympiakos thrash Volos 7-2 and narrow the gap at the top to one point. Leaders AEK lose 2-1 away to Apollon.

HOLLAND: PSV's lead is trimmed to one point as they are held 1-1 away to Twente Enschede, despite the return to duty of Wim Kieft who had been out injured since December. Injury-hit Ajax beat Utrecht 2-0 at home thanks to goals in the last 13 minutes from Winter and Verkuyl.

ITALY: Inter move seven points clear of Napoli. Keeper Walter Zenga concedes his first league goal in more than nine hours' play but they still beat Cesena 2-1.

PORTUGAL: Football tragedy in Portugal as 12 fans of Portimonense are killed and 26 are injured as the bus taking them to watch their team against Porto crashes off the road and overturns.

SPAIN: Real Madrid, still with a game in hand, extend their lead to four points. Madrid beat Murcia 3-0 while Barcelona draw 0-0 at Zaragoza.

YUGOSLAVIA: Vojvodina beat Vardar Skopje 2-0 to extend their lead at the top of the table to four points ahead of Rad Belgrade. Rad lose 6-5 on penalties after a 1-1 draw away to Celik, who now have real hope of making up their six-point penalty and escaping relegation. They are still bottom of the table, but only one point behind Zeljeznicar and two adrift of Napredak.

MONDAY, APRIL 10

FRANCE: The international federation of players' unions announces support for moves towards the abolition of transfer fees within the European Community.

PORTUGAL: UEFA executive members arrive at Palmela, near Lisbon, for the meeting which will consider, among other things, the possible return of English clubs to European competition. President Jacques Georges says: "We need some guarantees from the British government and the English FA before preparing for English clubs' readmission. But I have spoken twice with the Sports Minister, Colin Moynihan, and he has said he cannot give such guarantees."

TUESDAY, APRIL 11

ACTION: In friendly international action, Czechoslovakia win 2-1 away to Austria in Graz . . . in the European under-21 event, East Germany are held goalless in Dessau by Turkey.

BELGIUM: Anderlecht, having just beaten Mechelen in the league, announce that they are negotiating to lure away Mechelen's Dutch coach, Aad de Mos.

FRANCE: The European Parliament in Strasbourg votes in favour of a resolution demanding an end with the EC of the transfer fee system, and an end to restrictions on player import quotas . . . Marseille are held 2-2 at home by Monaco, for whom Glenn Hoddle in midfield and two-goal George Weah up front are outstanding.

ITALY: Juventus fine goalkeeper Stefano Tacconi £1,000 for kicking Lecce's Argentine forward Pedro Pablo Pasculli during Sunday's 2-0 defeat. The incident was not seen by the referee but a Juventus spokesman says: "The fact that the referee did not see the incident and that Pasculli was not hurt are incidental. We do not expect Juventus players to behave in such a way." . . . Rino Marchesi, replaced by Dino Zoff as Juve coach at the end of last season, is sacked by relegation-threatened Como.

PORTUGAL: UEFA's executive committee, meeting at Palmela, near Lisbon, decides on principle to readmit English clubs to European competition from the start of the 1990-91 season. This is conditional on no trouble among fans at the 1990 World Cup finals and, above all, on final approval from the British government. After the instant euphoria more sober reflection among senior club directors and officials is pessimistic that the necessary conditions to satisfy Sports Minister Colin Moynihan can be met.

SPAIN: Spanish international centreback Antonio Maceda announces his premature retirement after failing to recover from a knee injury aggravated in training before the 1986 World Cup finals.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12

ACTION: In the World Cup qualifiers, East Germany miss a penalty and go down 2-0 at home to Turkey. There is home-town disappointment, too, for Hungary, who are held 1-1 in Budapest by Malta . . . in friendly internationals, Denmark beat Canada 2-0, Poland beat Rumania 2-1 and Brazil beat Paraguay 2-0 . . . in the European under-21 event, Hungary beat Cyprus 1-0 . . . in the South American club cup, Cobreloa beat Deportivo Quito 1-0 but Boca Juniors were eliminated after losing 7-6 on penalties to Olimpia of Paraguay after a 5-5 aggregate draw.

FRANCE: Soviet sweeper Vagiz Khidiatulin will miss the rest of the French league season because of a groin injury . . . Paris Saint-Germain are held goalless in the league in Strasbourg and thus miss the chance to overtake Marseille and regain the league leadership.

SPAIN: Barcelona suffer the worst defeat of Johan Cruyff's tenure, crashing 4-0 away to Atletico Madrid in the second leg of the Spanish cup quarter-finals. Atletico win 7-3 on aggregate thanks to two further goals from Brazilian goal machine Baltazar.

SWITZERLAND: Galatasaray's hopes of a miracle recovery against Steaua Bucharest in the Champions' Cup fade as top scorer Tanju Colak is suspended by UEFA after collecting his second yellow card caution of the competition . . . UEFA leaders and officials hit back at suggestions that the transfer fee system is 'slavery.'

THURSDAY, APRIL 13

BULGARIA: Lyuboslav Penev, CFKA's star forward and footballer of the year, breaks his ankle against Dunav and is ruled out of action for six months — a severe blow for prospects of the national team in the World Cup and for CFKA in the Cup-winners' Cup.

FRANCE: Crisis-hit Racing will continue in the first division next season, assuming they avoid relegation, despite the withdrawal of backers Matra. The Racing Club of France have said they will assume responsibility for the club, possibly as an interim measure until new sponsors have been secured.

ITALY: Milan warn fans desperate to buy tickets for the European return against Real Madrid, to beware touts selling tickets left over from the friendly between the clubs last year.

SPAIN: Real Madrid president Ramon Mendoza says Leo Beenhakker will not continue as coach next season, even if he stays with the club. Beenhakker has been linked with Ajax Amsterdam.

UNITED STATES: Officials of the American Soccer League and the Western Soccer League announce the long-predicted merger plans which would create the illusion of a national championship in advance of the 1994 World Cup finals.

WEST GERMANY: Rinus Michels, one of the world's top bosses, is diplomatically dismissed by UEFA Cup-holders Bayer Leverkusen. Bayer say Michels's contract, which was due to expire in 1990, had been terminated immediately and by mutual consent. Leverkusen, 12th in the Bundesliga, appoint youth coach Jurgen Gelsdorf as caretaker . . . in Bundesliga action, Hannover go down 2-0 to Waldhof Mannheim.

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

CHAMPIONS' CUP

Semi-finals, first legs (April 5)

Real Madrid 1 (Hugo Sanchez 41)
Milan 1 (Van Basten 78)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 95,000. **Ref:** Fredriksson (Swe)
Madrid: Buyo — Chendo, Tendillo, Sanchis, Gordillo, Martin Vazquez, Michel (Paco Llorente 81), Schuster, Hugo Sanchez, Butragueno.
Milan: Galli — Tassotti, Maldini, Colombo (Costacurta 89), Baresi, Rijkaard, Ancelotti, Donadoni, Van Basten, Gullit (Virdis 77), Evani.

MADRID left the Estadio Bernabeu cursing the fates which had sent them into league conflict at Barcelona the previous weekend. The pressure of that goalless draw had drained Madrid of the tactical concentration needed to cope with Milan and their three class Dutchmen. The match was televised live to 24 countries and watched by an estimated 500 million spectators outside Spain who must have been impressed by the decisive way in which Milan seized the early initiative. Marco Van Basten saw Paco Buyo scramble to save two early chances. But then Hugo Sanchez, unlucky twice earlier, hit a fine goal against the run of play to push Madrid ahead. In the second half Michel and Gullit, at either end, had goals disallowed for offside before Van Basten hit a brilliant equaliser 12 minutes from time. Madrid coach Leo Beenhakker admitted: "Milan have the advantage now. We didn't play as well as we can." Milan coach Arrigo Sacchi said: "We were a little generous. We controlled most of the match but could not finish it off."

Steaua 4 (Dumitrescu 8, Hagi 40 pen, Petrescu 68, Balint 72)
Galatasaray 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 32,00. **Ref:** Correa (Port)
Steaua: Lung — Petrescu, Ungureanu (Balint 65), Bumbescu, Stoica, Iovan, Lacatus (Balan 86), Dumitrescu, Piturca, Hagi, Rotariu.
Galatasaray: Simovic — Ismail, Cuneyt, Erhan Onal, Semih, Yusuf, Ugur, Prekazi, Savas Demirel (Arif 75), Tanju, Savas Koc (Kovacevic 75).

STEAUA needed only half the tie to virtually secure their place in the final in Barcelona. They were much too well-organised and efficient for the Turks, in the semi-finals for the first time. Ilie Dumitrescu shot Steaua ahead in the eighth minute and the only reason No 2 did not arrive until the 40th minute was the brilliance of Galatasaray keeper Zoran Simovic. He made fine saves from Dan Petrescu in the 26th minute and Victor Piturca in the 27th. In the 38th minute Galatasaray star Tanju Colak was narrowly wide with a snapshot. But two minutes later Steaua moved further ahead when Piturca was brought down by Erhan Onal and Gheorghe Hagi converted the penalty. Steaua stepped up the pace of the action even further in the second half. First Petrescu scored after a Dumitrescu-Lacatus move. Then Hagi, beating three defenders, brilliantly laid on another for substitute Gavril Balint. Steaua coach Anghel Iordanescu said: "Our defence did not play well but fortunately it did not notice. We are confident for the second leg but we would have to work a lot harder if we were to be ready for the cup final."

CUP-WINNERS' CUP

Semi-finals, first legs (April 5 unless stated)

Barcelona 4 (Lineker 36, Amor 37, Baquero 48, Salinas 72)
CFKA Sofia 2 (Stoichkov 24, 67)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 22,500. **Ref:** Kirschen (EG). Played April 4.
Barcelona: Zubizarreta — Serna, Aloisio, Julio Alberto, Eusebio (Alesanco 75), Amor, Baquero, Roberto, Lineker, Julio Salinas, Beguiristain (Carrasco 82).
CFKA: Valov (Apostolov 80) — Mladenov, Ivanov, Dimitrov, Bachev, Kostadinov, Kirov, Bezinski, Vitanov, Stoichkov, Tanev (Georgiev 76).

BARCELONA coach Johan Cruyff had come under critical pressure for leaving Gary Lineker on the substitutes' bench the previous weekend in a 0-0 home draw against league leaders Real Madrid. Now he restored him to the attack, in place of ineligible new signing Julio Cesar Romero, and was rewarded with a goal. The timing could hardly have been bettered — Lineker's shot to Jose Baquero's cross wiping out a Bulgarian advantage lobbed home earlier by Hristo Stoichkov. CFKA had not recovered from Lineker' strike when Amor put Barsa in front with a superb solo effort. Just after half-time Baquero made it 3-1 with a diving header to a cross from his former Real Sociedad team-mate, Aitor Beguiristain. Stoichkov pulled one back from a penalty after Serna fouled Emil Kostadinov. But it took only four minutes for Barsa to regain their two-goal advantage when Roberto opened up the CFKA defence for Julio Salinas to volley home. CFKA were down but far from out and in the 88th minute Zubizarreta rescued Barcelona with a sharp save from Stoichkov.

Mechelen 2 (Ohana 11, Deferm 68)
Sampdoria 1 (Vialli 74)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 14,500. **Ref:** Galler (Swz)
Mechelen: Preud'homme — Sanders, Rutjes, Emmers, Versavel, Hofkens — E.Koeman, Demesmaeker (Deferm 67), De Wilde — Ohana (Wilmots 50), Bosman.
Sampdoria: Pagliuca — Luca Pellegrini, Mannini (Stefano Pellegrini 23), Lanna, Vierchowod, Toninho Cerezo, Victor, Pari, Dossena, Vialli, Mancini.

A LATE goal from Gianluca Vialli turned the tie towards Sampdoria, though Vialli also collected a yellow card which would keep the Italians' greatest attacking asset out of the return. Mechelen began in a hurry and went ahead in the 11th minute when a Bruno Versavel cross confused the Sampdoria defence and Israel international Eli Ohana headed in easily. Ohana nearly scored a second in the 25th minute when Pagliuca moved late to save a free kick. Sampdoria's spoiling tactics gradually began to take effect and Mechelen made few further chances. Indeed, it was Sampdoria who came closest to scoring either side of half-time. First Vialli forced a fine save from Michel Preud'homme, then Mancini also tested the Belgium keeper. Early in the second half Mechelen coach Aad de Mos made two substitutions and the second, introducing Geert Deferm for Demesmaeker, paid off within a minute. Dutchman Wim Hofkens launched a long free kick into the Sampdoria goalmouth and Deferm, with his first touch of the ball for his first goal in Europe, steered it beyond Pagliuca. Sampdoria's reply was Vialli's goal, after Mechelen had failed to clear a corner. At least Mechelen finished having extended to 16 matches their unbeaten run in Europe.

UEFA CUP

Semi-finals, first legs (April 5)

Napoli 2 (Careca 40, Carnevale 59)
Bayern Munich 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 83,000. **Ref:** Vautrot (Fr)
Napoli: Giuliani — Ferrara, Francini, Corradini, Alemao, Renica, Fusi, De Napoli, Careca, Maradona (Carannante 80), Carnevale.
Bayern: Aumann — Nachtweih — Flick, Johsen (Grahammer 80), Augenthaler, Reuter — Kogl, Dorfner, Wohlfarth, Thon — Ekstrom (Eck 77).

DIEGO Maradona, half-fit because of a thigh strain, may not have had one of his most high-profile matches but he popped up to lay on both the goals which pushed Napoli ever-closer to what would be their first European final. Bayern commanded the first half-hour. Ludwig Kogl was a thorn in the Italian side and Olaf Thon saw a close-range shot stopped by Giuliani after only 24 minutes. It was not until the 40th minute that Napoli strung together a move good enough to end with Careca shooting home after the Bayern defence failed to cut out a Maradona pass. In the 52nd minute Kogl should have done better than shoot over the bar from close range and Bayern paid for his miss seven minutes later when Andrea Carnevale headed home for Napoli at the other end. Carnevale's goal was just reward for his efforts. In the five minutes before his goal he shot weakly after a brilliant solo run, then he headed against a post before scoring 'his' goal. Carnevale, who was booked, will miss the second leg because of suspension. Perhaps more significantly, so will Bayern schemer Olaf Thon — for the same reason.

Stuttgart 1 (Allgower 60)
Dynamo Dresden 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Nemeth (Hun)
Stuttgart: Immel — Nils Schmaler, Schroder, Katanec, Hartmann, Buchwald, Allgower, Walter, Klinsmann (Olaf Schmaler 58), Sigurvinsson, Gaudino.
Dresden: Teuber — Trautmann, Lieberam, Kirchner, Doschner (Buttner 46), Sammer, Stubner, Pilz, Hauptmann, Minge, Gutschow (Jahnig 78).

AT LEAST one thing was guaranteed from this inter-German duel — the eventual winners of the tie would be going on into a European final for the first time. Stuttgart coch Arie Haan decided to gamble on the attacking inclusion of Jurgen Klinsmann, even though the West German international had been out injured for seven weeks. Klinsmann was involved in some of the early action, having a shot blocked, while Hans-Uwe Pilz, at the other end, forced an acrobatic save from Immel. When Stuttgart returned to the attack Allgower was narrowly wide with a free kick. But he was right on target on the hour when Allgower collected a long pass from Nils Schmaler and slipped past keeper Ronnie Teuber to score.

CHAMPIONS' CUP

Semi-finals, second legs (April 19)

Milan 5 (Ancelotti 18, Rijkaard 25, Gullit 44, Van Basten 49, Donadoni 60)
Real Madrid 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 73,112. **Ref:** Ponnet (Bel)
Milan 6-1 on agg
Milan: Galli — Tassotti, Maldini, Colombo (F.Galli 65), Rijkaard, Baresi, Donadoni, Ancelotti, Van Basten, Gullit (Virdis 58), Costacurta.
Madrid: Buyo — Chendo, Gordillo, Michel, Sanchis, Martin Vasquez, Butragueno, Schuster, Sanchez, Gallego, Paco Llorente.

MILAN reached the final by simply overwhelming Madrid in front of a capacity 73,000 crowd which produced record receipts of £1.6million. Once Carlo Ancelotti had fired a 25-yard drive beyond Buyo for the opening goal the result was never in doubt. Madrid were always chasing the result and though they tried bravely to attack Milan, they were soon out of sight. Frank Rijkaard headed in a Tassotti cross from a Donadoni short corner for Milan's second and fellow Dutchman Ruud Gullit headed in another Donadoni assist just before the interval. Rijkaard and Gullit set up Van Basten early in the second half and Donadoni completed the scoring on the hour with a shot which caught Buyo by surprise. Madrid flew home to a storm of derision from the Spanish media while Milan were left regretting that a midfield knee twist might cost them the services of the inspirational Gullit for the final

Galatasaray 1 (Cuneyt 36)
Steaua Bucharest 1 (Dumitrescu 39)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Hackett (Eng). Played in Izmir.
Steaua 5-1 on agg
Galatasaray: Simovic — Ismail, Semih, Cuneyt, Onal, Yusuf, Arif (Savas.K 53), Prekazi, Kovacevic, Bulent, Turgay (Ilyas Tufecki 65).
Steaua: Lung — D.Petrescu, Ungureanu, Bumbescu, Stoica (Minea 58), Iovan, Balint, Dumitrescu, Piturca, Hagi, Rotariu (Negrau 85).

STEAUA'S success was never in doubt, from the moment they won the first leg so decisively. Galatasaray attacked with skill and poise but they badly missed the suspended Tanju once they reached the Rumanian penalty box. Galatasaray did take the lead through Cuneyt Tanman, after a Prekazi free kick rebounded off the bar. But it took Steaua only three minutes to pull level — Ilie Dumitrescu equalising after a corner by Gheorghe Hagi. Galatasaray were on £35,000-a-man to win but some fine second-half saves by Silviu Lung kept them at bay. The nearest they came was a Yusuf header which grazed the bar in the 68th minute. Steaua's best second-half opening was a shot by Hagi which struck a post.

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

CUP-WINNERS' CUP

Semi-finals, second legs (April 19)

CFKA Sredets 1 (Stoichkov 65)
Barcelona 2 (Lineker 26, Amor 83)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 55,000. **Ref:** Schmidhuber (WG)
Barcelona 6-3 on agg

CFKA: Valov — N.Mladenov, Vitanov, Bezinski, Dimitrov, Yanchev, E.Kostadinov, Stoichkov, Georgiev (Stoyanov 82), Tanev (Donev 80), Kirov.

Barcelona: Zubizarreta — Lopez Recarte, Aloisio, Milla (Soler 78), Serna, Amor, Lineker, Eusebio, Julio Salinas, Roberto, Beguiristain (Urbano Ortega 88).

GARY Lineker was the centre of attention from start to finish. Interest was aroused first to see whether he would start the game then, right in the last minute, he missed a penalty. By then Barcelona were safely into their fourth Cup-winners' final. Lineker opened the scoring after robbing veteran World Cup defender Georgi Dimitrov. Hristo Stoichkov brought CFKA faint hope with a second-half effort which ricocheted into the net off a post. Amor restored Barsa's lead seven minutes from time then Lineker saw his last-minute penalty effort punched out by Valov. By that time it was too late for CFKA team who had been weakened, anyway, by Lyuboslav Penev's injury and Trifon Ivanov's suspension.

Sampdoria 3 (Toninho Cerezo 70, Dossena 85, Salsano 88)
Mechelen 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 21,000. **Ref:** Stiegler (Cz)
Sampdoria 4-2 on agg

Sampdoria: Pagliuca — Stefano Pellegrini (Lnna 75), Salsano, Pari, Vierchowod, Luca Pellegrini, Victor, Toninho Cerezo, Pradella (Bonomi 65), Mancini, Dossena.

Mechelen: Preud'homme — Hofkens, Emmers, Rutjes, Deferm, Versavel, Koeman, De Wilde, De Mesmaeker (Wilmots 65), Ohana, Den Boer.

TWO goals in the last five minutes provided an unfortunately lop-sided look to the match. Mechelen had not lost in two years in Europe, but their first leg victory proved an unlucky 13th. The Belgian holders of the Cup held out well enough in the first half, with only a wasted half-chance by Victor falling to Sampdoria. At that stage it looked as if Sampdoria would miss the boat, especially as Gianluca Vialli was absent because of suspension. Eventually Cerezo achieved the breakthrough on a pass from Roberto Mancini. Mechelen, now losing on the away goals rule, threw everything forward and were caught twice by the classical Italian counter-punch. Giuseppe Dossena scored a superb solo second and Fausto Salsano collected a third. Vierchowod, Pradella and Den Boer were all booked, which means Vierchowod will miss the final.

UEFA CUP

Semi-finals, second legs (April 19)

Bayern Munich 2 (Flick 63, Reuter 81)
Napoli 2 (Careca 60, 77)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 72,300. **Ref:** Syme (Scot)
Napoli 4-2 on agg

Bayern: Aumann — Nachtweih (Johnsen 80), Pflugler, Flick (Ekstrom 65), Augenthaler, Dorfner, Kogl, Reuter, Wohlfarth, Eck, Wegmann.

Napoli: Giuliani — Ferrara, Francini, Corradini, Alemao (Bigliardi 72), Renica, Crippa, De Napoli (Carannante 87), Careca, Maradona, Fusi.

THOUSANDS of Napoli fans took to the streets back home after this 2-2 draw brought Diego Maradona's men safely through to their first European final, and at the expense of their most dangerous remaining rivals. Maradona was the decisive figure of the match. In the 19th minute he headed a 'goal' which, had it not been disallowed for offside, would have settled the tie there and then. Even so, it appeared to shake Bayern's confidence. Though Kogl frequently found space on the wings the West Germans rarely provided a serious threat to Giuliani's net. All the goals stemmed from defensive blunders. On the hour Bayern defender Norbert Nachtweih fluffed a clearance, Maradona pounced and Careca opened the scoring. Dieter Flick equalised three minutes later after Giuliani missed a Kogl corner. But another mistake by Nachtweih, exploited by Maradona, allowed Careca to shoot Napoli back into the lead. Bayern equalised once more when slack marking allowed Stefan Reuter to drive his shot home. But with only nine minutes left Napoli were home and dry.

Dresden 1 (Lieberam 83)
Stuttgart 1 (Allgower 64)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 36,000. **Ref:** Brummeier (Aus)
Stuttgart 2-1 on agg

Dresden: Teuber — Trautmann, Lieberam, Kirchner (Jahnig 68), Buttner, Sammer, Stubner, Pilz, Hauptmann, Minge, Gutschow.

Stuttgart: Immel — Schafer, Schroder, Katanec, Hartmann, Buchwald (Zietsch 79), Allgower, Nils Schmaler, Klinsmann, Sigurvinsson, Gaudino.

STUTTGART reached their first European final after withstanding steady East German pressure for most of the first half. Stubner hit the bar in the third minute and a shot by Mattias Sammer, Dresden's best player, clipped the outside of a post in the 27th. After the break, however, Dresden's fire began to die down. Stuttgart advanced and sweeper Karl Allgower fired them ahead after Michael Schroder touched a free kick into his path. Dresden's equalised from Frank Lieberam was merely a late consolation. Stuttgart coach Arie Haan thought the game "a little too rough." One of the consequences was a booking for star striker Jurgen Klinsmann which will keep him out of the first leg of the final.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Armenia (Colombia) — intl friendly tmt
Chile 0
Peru 0
HT: 15,000. **Ref:** Armando Perez Hoyos (Col)

Chile: Wirth — Ahumada*, Contreras*, Carrasco*, Hernandez — Rodriguez, Figueroa, Valdes, Ramirez — Alvarez (Martinez 60), Letellier. *Carrasco sent off, 50min; Ahumada sent off, 55min; Contreras sent off, 87min.

Peru: Purisaga — Rojas, Requena, Del Solar, Olivares — Reynoso*, Martinez (Cordero 75), Olaechea, Farfan (Ray Munoz 65), Valencia — Andrisi. *Reynoso sent off, 50min.

THERE may have been few goalmouth incidents but there was plenty of aggravation elsewhere on the pitch with referee Perez Hoyos sending off four players. In the circumstances Chile, reduced to eight men by the finish, did well to hold out for the goalless draw.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Armenia (Col) — intl friendly tmt
Colombia 1 (Higuita 70pen)
Peru 0 HT: 0-0.
Att: 20,000. **Ref:** Jesus Diaz (Col)

Colombia: Higuita — Perez, Escobar, Perea, Hoyos — Alvarez, Garcia, Redin, Trellez (Hernandez) — Estrada, Angulo.

Peru: Chavez — Rojas, Requena, Del Solar, Olivares — Valencia, Olaechea, Achisi (Rey Munoz) — Farfan, Esguerra (Martinez).

YET another successful spot kick from goalkeeper/specialist Rene Higuita was enough to send Colombia's fans home happy. If this had been a league game it would have been called off: the lights went out after 20 minutes and by the time they were restored, 15 minutes later, torrential rain had made the pitch almost unplayable. Colombia, under pressure as hosts, put more effort into the match and might have scored more goals had it not been for the muddy brilliance of Peru keeper Chavez.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

Armenia (Col) — intl friendly tmt
Colombia 1 (Redin 63)
Chile 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Jesus Diaz (Col)

Colombia: Higuita — Perez, Escobar, Perea, Hoyos — *Alvarez, Pedin, Garcia — De Avila (Hernandez 46), Angulo (Arango 46; Ambuila 72), Estrada. *Alvarez sent off, 70min.

Chile: Wirth — Contreras — Carrasco, Figueroa, Cantillana, Hernandez — Rodriguez, Valdes (Martinez 60), Ramirez (Ramos 57) — Letelier, Alvarez*. *Alvarez sent off, 71min.

HOSTS Colombia won their own tournament, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the town of Armenia, thanks to a goal from their outstanding midfielder, Redin. Chile went into action with a defence-in-depth system, Contreras operating behind a back four in a style more reminiscent of Uruguay than Chile. Once again the Chileans ended a match with depleted forces after the 71st-minute expulsion of Alvarez. Chile finished as tournament runners-up. Final points totals: Colombia six, Chile three, Peru two and Colombia Youth one.

THURSDAY, MARCH 9

Barranquilla — intl friendly
Colombia 1 (Iguaran 15)
Argentina 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 60,000. **Ref:** Quirola (Col)

Colombia: Higuita — Perez, Perea, Escobar, Hoyos, Alvarez, Redin, Garcia, Carlos Valderrama, Iguaran (De Avila 77), Hernandez.

Argentina: Falcioni — Craviotto, Fabbri, Monzon, Diaz, Simeone, Corti (Cabrera 75), Hector Adolfo Enrique, Basualdo, Balbo, Airez (Alfaro Moreno 64).

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

Cuiaba — intl friendly
Brazil 1 (Washington 19)
Ecuador 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 54,815. **Ref:** Vanderley (Brz)

Brazil: Acacio — Jorginho, Batista (Aldair), Andre Cruz, Eduardo, Uidemar (Ze do Carmo), Geovani, Toninho (Vivinho), *Bebeto, Washington, Zinho (Joao Paulo). *Bebeto sent off, 40min.

Ecuador: Morales — Alcivar (Quinteros), Quinones, Farjardo (Montanero), Capurro, Marcetti (Guerrero), Cuvi, Verduga (Munoz), Macias, Aviles, *Tenorio. *Tenorio sent off, 40min.

THIS was Brazil's first match under new boss Lazaroni and the first in their preparation series for the South American championship and the World Cup qualifiers. Brazil were missing all their European-based exports, of course, while Ecuador were without Alex Aguinaga and Jimmy Izquierdo. Brazil skipper Washington shot the only goal while the Ecuador defence hesitated, claiming offside. Both sides finished with ten men, Bebeto and Tenorio being sent off five minutes before half-time.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

Dresden — intl friendly
East Germany 1 (Trautmann 54)
Finland 1 (Lipponen 29)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 14,000. **Ref:** Marko (Cz)

E.Germany: Muller — Kreer, Rohde, Trautmann, Lindner, Stubner, Halata (Doll 75), Sammer (Hauptmann 75), Wosz, Kirsten, Thom (Gutschow 46).

Finland: Laukkanen — Pekonen, Europaeus, Heikkinen, Kanerva, Myyry (M.Altonen 72), Holmgren (Roth 89), Ukkonen, Hjelm (Tegelberg 88), Lipponen, Paavola (Petaja 80).

EAST Germany were a little lucky to avoid the embarrassment of a home defeat. Mike Lipponen, who plays for Twente Enschede in Holland, put Finland ahead with a spectacular overhead kick. The Finns, with the help of a bad miss by Andreas Thom in the 36th, held that lead until nine minutes after the interval. Then Andreas Trautmann, from host club Dynamo Dresden, equalised after a free kick. Finland responded by returning bravely to the attack and forcing a number of sharp saves from Rene Muller.

Eindhoven — intl friendly
Holland 2 (Van Basten 6, R.Koeman 85 pen)
Soviet Union 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 24,000. **Ref:** Worrall (Eng)

● *Continued overleaf*

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

● *Continued from previous page*

Holland: Snelders — Van Tiggelen, R.Koeman, Rijkaard, Hofkens — Rutjes, Gullit, Winter — Huistra (Bosman 67), Van Basten, Vanenburg.
Sov.Union: Dasayev — O.Kuznetsov, Zavarov, Gorlukovich, Demianenko — Zigmantovich (Cherednik 65), Liuty (Yuri Savichev 65), Rats, Litovchenko, Protasov, Aleinikov.

HOLLAND repeated their European championship final victory. Marco Van Basten, spectacular marksman in Munich, scored in only the sixth minute after a left wing move featuring Wim Hofkens and Ruud Gullit. Four minutes later Gullit headed narrowly wide. The Soviets pressed forward in the second half but were defied by the fine form of Aberdeen keeper Theo Snelders as well as by their own failings. First Litovchenko saw an effort blocked then Gorkukovich was narrowly wide. Five minutes from the end Gullit was fouled by Rinat Dasayev and Ronald Koeman drove home the penalty.

Sofia — intl friendly
Bulgaria 1 (Iliev 46)
West Germany 2 (Voller 72, Littbarski 87)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Krchnak (Cz)
Bulgaria: Valav (Donev 46) — Dochev, Iliev, Bezinski, Kiriakov (Yordanov 74), Kirov (Todorov 73), Sadkov, Balakov (Voinov 73), Kostadinov, Penev, Stoichkov.
W.Germany: Illgner — Buchwald, Berthold, Kohler, Brehme, Hassler, Moller, Fach (Littbarski 46), Matthaus, Riedle, Voller.

WEST Germany came from behind in the last 18 minutes to beat Bulgaria in what was an important World Cup warm-up for both teams. German boss Franz Beckenbauer found it hard to celebrate his 50th international in charge as he went into the match without the injured Olaf Thon and Jurgen Klinsmann. Bulgaria might have gone ahead in the 12th minute when Brehme brought down Penev just outside the penalty box and Hristo Stoichkov's free kick rebounded off the bar. Stoichkov was the creator, immediately after the interval, of the superb Nikolai Iliev goal which sent Bulgaria ahead. West Germany then took a grip on the game. In the 72nd minute Matthaus broke through on the left and Littbarski provided the cross which Rudi Voller headed in for the equaliser. Quarter of an hour later Pierre Littbarski snatched the winner for West Germany with a 25-yard snap-shot.

THURSDAY, MARCH 23

Seville — WC Euro gp 6
Spain 4 (Michel 38, 68pen, Manolo 71, 80)
Malta 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Sandoz (Swz)
Spain: Zubizarreta — Quique Sanchez, Jimenez, Andrinua, Roberto, Sanchis, Michel, Butragueno, Martin Vazquez (Eusebio 68), Beguiristain (Eloy 68), Manolo.
Malta: Cluett — Edwin Camilleri, Alex Azzopardi (Cauchi 30), Buttigieg, Galea, R.Vella, Degiorgio*, C.Scerri, Carabott, Gregory, Busuttil.
*Degiorgio sent off, 42min.

SPAIN went further ahead at the top of the group to move within two points of the certainty of a place in next year's World Cup finals in Italy. Midfielder Michel led Spain's victory march, opening the scoring in the 38th minute from a deflected free kick after Camilleri fouled Manolo. Just before half-time Malta were reduced to ten men when Michel Degiorgio was sent off for fouling Manolo; just after the interval Malta were lucky when a Roberto chip struck the bar. Spain's attacking play grew ragged before Camilleri handled in the penalty box and Michel converted the spot kick. It took Spain just three minutes to stretch that lead. Twice Manolo headed home — first to convert a pass from substitute Eloy, then to put away a cross from Michel.

Arima — friendly intl
Trinidad and Tobago 1 (Lawrence 12)
Paraguay 1 (Franco 51)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 7,000.

SATURDAY, MARCH 25

Vienna — intl friendly
Austria 0
Italy 1 (Berti 88)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 23,000. **Ref:** Neuner (WG)
Austria: Lindenberger — Pfeffer, Weber, Russ — Willfurth, Prohaska, Zsak, Herzog (Linzmaier 87), Degeorgi (Hormann 70) — Ogris (Rodax 61), Polster,
Italy: Zenga — F.Baresi — Bergomi, Ferri, Maldini (De Agostini 46) — Donadoni, De Napoli, Berti, Giannini — Vialli, Serena (Borgonovo 21).

INTER starlet Nicola Berti was Italy's hero, as much for his probing play in midfield as for his late winner. Earlier Austria had occasionally embarrassed the Italian defence, with ex-Inter midfielder Herbert Prohaska a veteran star. He far outshone his Roma opponent, Giuseppe Giannini.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29

Sibiu — intl friendly
Rumania 1 (Sabau 48)
Italy 0
HT: 0-0. **Att: 20,000. Ref:** Kirschen (EG)
Rumania: Lung — Petrescu, Klein, Rednic, Mateut, Iovan, Lacatus, Sabau, Camataru (Cigan 46), Hagi (Lupescu 89), Popescu.
Italy: Zenga — Bergomi (Marocchi 51), Ferrara, F.Baresi, Ferri (Maldini 38), Berti, Donadoni (Baggio 65), De Napoli, Vialli, Giannini, Borgonovo.

ITALY looked tired in this first defeat since their European championship exit at the hands of the Soviet Union in last summer's semi-finals in West Germany. The only goal was scored by midfielder Gheorghe Sabau, when he shot in a rebound three minutes after the start of the second half. Both sides came close on other occasions — Vialli hitting a post in the second half for Italy and Dorin Mateut shooting against a post in the 32nd minute. Vialli missed two other openings for Italy and centre forward Roberto Borgonovo, starting an international for the first time because of injury to Aldo Serena, wasted perhaps their best opportunity shortly before the end. Sweeper Franco Baresi was Italy's best player.

Athens — intl friendly
Greece 0
Turkey 1 (Ridvan 38)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 12,000. **Ref:** Jokic (Yug)
Greece: Ikonomopulos — Apostolakis, Hatzithansiu, Kalitzakis, Mavridis, Tsaluhidis, Saravakos, Bonovas (Georgakopulos 51), Samaras, Noblias (Tunziaris 51), Tsiantakis (Borbokis 82).
Turkey: Engin — Recep, Gokhan K, Cuneyt, Gokhan G, Onal (Turhan 89), Ugur, Ridvan, Oguz (Mustafa 86), Tanju (Hassan 84), Erdal Keser.

A GOAL shortly before half-time from Ridvan Dilmen, nicknamed The Devil, decided the first match between these nations in Greece since the hosts' 3-1 win in 1952. Ridvan shot home a cross from Oguz Cetin to provide Turkey with a victory which their more aggressive and creative play deserved. Greek Culture Minister Melina Mercouri wa among the 12,000 crowd which saw the hosts create few chances. One o the best fell to Nikos Tsiantakis, but his 40th-minute lob fell just behind the bar. Ridvan might have scored another goal, after an interpassing movement with star striker Tanju, in a second half which was briefly interrupted by a 50th-minute pitch 'invasion' by three masked, banner-waving, anti-Turkish protesters. Greece and Turkey have played each seven times in all, with Turkey winning five and losing two.

Lisbon — intl friendly
Portugal 6 (Oliveira 20, Frederico 39, 87, Andre 54, Nunes 55, Semedo 63)
Angola 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Ramos Marcos (Sp)
Portugal: Silvino — Joao Pinto (Jaime 73), Frederico, Oliveira, Fonseca — Vitor Paneira (Andre 46), Nunes, Semedo — Rui Barros (Cesar Brito 46), Rui Aguas, Pacheco (Domingos 76).
Angola: Lucio — Sebastiao — Nejo, Rasgado, Barbosa (Sarmento 74) — Abel, Jesus (Manuel 73), Nelson, Arsenio — Saavedra, Vieira Dias (Zacarias 46).

WHAT better way for the Portuguese to celebrate the 75th anniversary of their federation than a match against the nation who provided so many superb players to the Portuguese cause over the years? In the 1950s and early 1960s Angola could have selected two full teams from emigrants but this time there were only three in the line-up: Benfica's Abel, skipper Jesus from Varzim and the controversial Saavedra from Belenenses. Angola set out a defensive formation which only encouraged Portugal to produce some neat attacking football and, ultimately, a walkover victory. Towards the end national manager Juca took the opportunity of providing the new Porto prodigy, Domingos, with his senior debut. Intriguingly, despite the six-goal scoreline, not one goal was contributed by Portugal's so-called strikers.

TUESDAY, APRIL 4

Budapest — intl friendly
Hungary 3 (Detari 21, E.Kovacs 35, Bognar 74)
Switzerland 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 2,000. **Ref:** Bujic (Yug)
Hungary: P.Disztl — L.Disztl — Kozma, Bognar, Keller — Gregor, Detari (Csucsnszky 83), Sass (Ceshi 77), E.Kovacs (Balog 46) — Kiprich (Fischer 53), Hajszan.
Switzerland: Brunner — Wehrle — Marini, Weber, Birrer — Koller (B.Sutter 59), Colombo, Hermann, Favre (A.Sutter 67) — Zuffi, Turkyilmaz.

HUNGARY'S fans gave this one a miss, illustrating the continuing domestic distaste for tainted football rather than a distaste for the Swiss as opponents. Hungary's first win under new manager Bertalan Bicskei was on its way as early as the 21st minute. Gyula Hajszan went past three defenders and crossed, Jozsef Kiprich stepped over the ball and Lajos Detari shot home. A Detari free kick provided the opportunity for Ervin Kovacs to head the second in the 35th minute. A crossfield move between Sass and Kozma provided defender Zoltan Bognar with the opening to blast goal No 3 home from 25 yards towards the end of the second half. Swiss manager Daniel Jeandupeux, looking ahead to a World Cup visit to Portugal, had said he was not looking for victory in this match. He must have been a worried man after seeing all his defensive planning laid waste.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5

Athens — intl friendly
Greece 1 (Mitropulos 60)
Yugoslavia 4 (Zlatko Vujovic 22, 85, Tuce 75, Jakovljevic 80)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 1,500. **Ref:** Kaupe (Aus)
Greece: Ikonomopulos (Sarganis 46) — Hatzithanasiu, Apostolakis, Kalitzakis, Maviridis (Kutulas 46), Georgakopulos (Savidis 61), Borbokis, Tsaluhidis, Samaras (Vakalopulos 46), Mitropulos, Tsiantakis.
Yugoslavia: Ivkovic — Stankovic (Tuce 66), Spasic, Zoran Vujovic, Hadzibegic, Jozic, Stojkovic, Susic, Mihajlovic (Jakovljevic 63), Bazdarevic (Durovski 86), Zlatko Vujovic.

WORLD Cup preparations provided the reasoning for this friendly, with the Greeks distinctly worried about hosting Rumania, while Yugoslavia were thinking ahead to their highly-charged visit to Paris to play France. Judging by this match the Slavs had far less about which to worry, although it was not until the last 15 minutes that they made their superiority tell with three goals to clinch victory. Skipper Zlatko Vujovic shot the visitors ahead in the 22nd minute after a pass from Dragan Stojkovic. But Greece equalised on the hour when Tassos Mitropulos headed home a Paraskevas Georgakopulos free kick. Greece barely deserved to be on terms and Yugoslavia re-established their advantage in the 75th minute when Semir Tuce shot past Nikos Sarganis after dribbling past two defenders. As Greece fell apart so Dragan Jakovljevic converted another incisive Stojkovic pass for No 3 and Vujovic collected No 4.

TUESDAY, APRIL 11

Graz — intl friendly
Austria 1 (Herzog 71)
Czechoslovakia 2 (Griga 59, 76)

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

HT: 0-0. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Pairetto (It)
Austria: Lindenberger — H.Weber, Russ, Pfeffer, Willfurth (Reisinger 63), Stoger, Zsak, Herzog, Degeorgi, Keglevits (Rodax 63), Pacult.
Czechoslovakia: Stejskal — Kocian, Kadlec, Straka, Bielik, Nemecek (Kinier 86), Hasek, Moravcik, Bilek, Griga, Luhovy (Drulak 88).

STANISLAV Griga scored twice in the second half to earn victory for Czechoslovakia, who were preparing to face Belgium in the World Cup qualifiers later in April. Czechoslovakia went ahead in the 59th minute when Austrian keeper Klaus Lindenberger was slow coming off his line, allowing Griga to head home a cross. Lindenberger made amends with good saves to headers by Griga and Frantisek Straka. Andreas Herzog equalised in the 71st minute only for the unmarked Griga to restore Czechoslovakia's lead five minutes later after pouncing on a careless pass by Austrian defender Kurt Russ.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12

Magdeburg — WC Euro gp 3
East Germany 0
Turkey 2 (Tanju 21, Ridvan 88)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 23,000. **Ref:** Damgaard (Den)
E.Germany: Muller — Hauptmann, Rohde, Trautmann, Lindner, Stubner (Wuckel 64), Sammer, Pilz (Doll 19), Kirsten, Minge, Thom.
Turkey: Engin — Recep, Cuneyt, B.Gokhan Keskin, Semih — Yusuf, Ugur (Erdal Keser 65), Oguz (Gokhan Gedikali 80), Unal — Ridvan, Tanju.

TURKEY underlined club level warnings handed out by Galatasaray by completing the qualifying double over crisis-torn East Germany. Goals by Tanju Colak, Europe's leading scorer last year, in the first half and Ridvan Dilmen two minutes from time took them to the top of group three, ahead of the Soviet Union. Tanju opened the scoring in the 21st minute when he converted a low cross from Ridvan. The same partnership worked in reverse for Turkey's second goal. This time it was Tanju's backheel which gave Ridvan the chance to shoot past Rene Muller. The finish could have been very different had East Germany's Mathias Lindner not had his 60th-minute penalty saved by Turkey's keeper, Engin. The penalty was awarded when Lindner himself was brought down. East Germany included seven players from league leaders Dresden. But their best other opening was in the 35th minute when veteran Ralf Minge met a cross from Andreas Thom with a thundering header which flew just wide.

Budapest — WC Europ gp 6
Hungary 1 (Boda 49)
Malta 1 (Busuttil 7)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Frost (Isr)
Hungary: P.Disztl — Kozma (Kiprich 57), Keller, L.Disztl, E.Kovacs, Z.Bognar, Boda, G.Bognar, Sass (Fischer 46), Detari, Hajszan.
Malta: Cluett — Edwin Camilleri, Alex Azzopardi, Galea, Cauchi (Silvio Vella 46), Buttigieg, Busuttil, Raymond Vella, Carabott, Scerri, Gregory.

BOLD Malta shocked once-mighty Hungary — and put a smile on Irish faces — with this shock draw in the Nepstadium. Malta even threatened to pull off their first victory in 29 World Cup-ties when Brentford's John Buttigieg beat three men in midfield to release Carmel Busuttil to score after only seven minutes. It took a controversial penalty to bring Hungary level. Israeli referee Arie Frost awarded the kick when striker Gyula Hajszan fell after what appeared a fair tackle. Imre Boda converted the spot kick. Despite further Hungarian pressure, the Maltese continued to look the more dangerous on the break. They came close to recording a famous victory in the closing minutes when Busuttil and Charles Scerri dribbled through the Magyar defence and Peter Disztl was forced to a brave save.

Aalborg — friendly intl
Denmark 2 (Elsrup 37, Vilfort 72)
Canada 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 16,000. **Ref:** Presberg (Nor)
Denmark: Rasmussen (Schmeichel 46) — J.Larsen, K.Nielsen (H.Larsen 52), L.Olsen, Bartram (Helt 80) — J.Jensen, M.Laudrup, Elstrup, Moseby (Vilfort 46) — B.Laudrup (Strudal 75), Povlsen.
Canada: Forest — Sarantopoulos, Nocita, Miller, Bridge — Samuel, Odinga, Lowery, Bonbury — Gilbert (MUirhead 55), Ferguson (Tittotto 84).

GOALS from Lars Elstrup and Kim Vilfort brought a below-strength Denmark a comfortable-enough victory over their Canadian visitors. Denmark's star was Brian Laudrup, younger brother of Michael. The younger Laudrup laid on Elstrup's goal while substitute Vilfort claimed his courtesy of a deflection by Bridge.

Warsaw — friendly intl
Poland 2 (Urban 40, Tarasiewicz 60)
Rumania 1 (Sabau 57)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Gregr (Cz)
Poland: Bako — Prusik, Szewczyk, Wdowczyk, Soczynski — Wijas, K.Warzycha (Ziober 62), Kosecki (Tarasiewicz 46), Urban — Dziekanowski (Araskiewicz 46), Furtok.
Rumania: Lung — D.Petrescu, Bumbescu (Sandoi 66), Klein, Rednic — Sabau, Mateut, Lupescu (Cristea 70), Hagi — Camataru (Vaiscovici 66), G.Popescu.

POLAND looked ahead to the double showdown with England in the World Cup qualifiers as they achieved a narrow victory. It was all the more creditable given that the Rumanians refused to 'hide' Steaua Bucharest's Champions' Cup hopefuls. Jan Urban put Poland ahead just before the interval. Ovaltiu Sabau pulled the goal back against the run of play early in the second half. But Poland regained the initiative with an inspired substitution as Ryszard Tarasiewicz smashed home a 25-yard winner on the hour.

Teresina — friendly intl
Brazil 2 (Cristovao 79, Vivinho 87)
Paraguay 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 65,000. **Ref:** Aragao (Brz)
Brazil: Acacio — Jorginho, Aldair, Andre Cruz, Eduardo, Bernardo, Bismarck, Bobo (Cristovao 74), Bebeto, Washington (Vivinho 66), Zinho (Joao Paulo 74).
Paraguay: Fernandez — Caceres, Jacquet, Riveiros (Chamorro 77), Caballero, Rivarola, Escobar (Roman 71), Franco, Brites (Rojas 86), Ferreira, Palacios.

BRAZIL manager Sebastiao Lazaroni is trying his best to put together a new team but the process is handicapped by the exile status of most of Brazil's best players, who are playing for European clubs. In their absence he prepared home-ground foundations for his World Cup side by using home-based stars against Paraguay. Among those new boys was Bismarck, the Vasco da Gama starlet who was voted Man of the Tournament at the recent World Youth Cup. Brazil dominated throughout but it was not until the last 11 minutes that they seized control of the match thanks to two decisive headers from their substitutes. Cristovao headed in after an Eduardo-Bismarck move, then Vivinho claimed No 2 from a cross by man-of-the-match Jorginho.

THURSDAY, APRIL 13

Guayaquil — intl friendly
Ecuador 2 (Aviles 52, Cuvi 57)
Argentina 2 (Alfaro Moreno 7, 36)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Tejada (Peru)
Ecuador: Morales — Alcivar, Quinones, Macias, Capurro, Fajardo, Marsetti (Quinteros 46), Cuvi, Aviles, Munoz (Guerrero 46), Verduga (Rosero 46).
Argentina: Islas — Hernan Diaz, Lorenzo, Sensini, Enrique (Simeone 46), Monzon, Balbo, Basualdo (Gorti 46),
Batista, Gorosito, Alfaro Moreno (Maciel 70).

WORLD Cup holders Argentina relaxed fatally in the second half after the dangerous Alfaro Moreno had twice punished slack Ecuador marking before the interval.

OTHER MATCHES

Jan 19: Farense 0, Bulgaria 0.
Jan 22: Bulgaria Ol.XI 0, Sov.Union Ol.XI 3 (Nehru Cup).
Jan 24: Bulgaria Ol.XI 0, Sov.Union Ol.XI 1 — Portimonense 1, Bulgaria 3.ı
Jan 26: Olianense 1, Bulgaria 2.
Jan 28: August 1, Angola 0, Bulgaria 5.
Feb 20: Bulgaria U21 1, Sov.Union U21 0.
Mar 7: Greece U21 2, E.Germany 1.
Mar 22: Italy U21 2, Hungary U21 2 — Fiorentina 1, Czechoslovakia 1 — Bulgaria 0, West Germany 0.
Mar 27: Rest of the World 2, Brazil Exports XI 1 (Zico Farewell).
Mar 29: Rumania U21 2, Italy U21 1.
Mar 30: Hungary U21 1, Bulgaria U21 1.
April 4: Switzerland U21 1, Hungary U21 2.

SOUTH AMERICAN CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

(Libertadores Cup)
Group 1

February 24

Santiago, Chile
Colo Colo (Chile) 0
Cobreloa (Chile) 2 (Munoz 2)
HT: 0-1 **Ref:** Salvador Imperatore (Chile). **Att:** 60,000.
Colo Colo: Moron, Espinoza, Garrido, Gonzalez, Neculnir, Pizarro, Jauregui, Ormeno (Soto), Barticciotto, Salgado, Dabrowski (Carreno).
Cobreloa: Osben, Tabilo, Gomez, Tello, Puebla, Garcia, Alarcon, Trobbiani (Cabrera), Munoz, Espindola (Alvarez), Covarrubias.

COBRELOA were the better team all the way, thanks mainly to their midfield control and they opened the score after only seven minutes with Munoz's second goal also coming at the start of the second half.

February 28

Santiago, Chile
Colo Colo (Chile) 3 (Salgado 2, Espinoza, pen)
Sol De America (Paraguay) 1 (Centurion)
HT: 2-1 **Ref:** Romualdo Arpi Filho (Brazil). **Att:** 56,000.
Colo Colo: Moron, Espinoza, Garrido, Gonzalez, Neculnir (Vilches), Ormeno, Pizarro, Jauregui, Barticiotto (Rodriguez), Salgado, Carreno.
Sol de America: Espinola, Leguizamon, Ramirez, Farina, Brugada, Estigarribia, Centurion, Brito, Cano (Benitez), Almiron, Velasquez (Genes).

SOL DE AMERICA took a seven minute lead, but then defended most of the way as Colo Colo missed chances — three by Salgado — in the first half, but were not so dangerous in the second. Still, enough shots went in for the Chilean team's comfortable win.

March 3

Calama, Chile
Cobreloa (Chile) 1 (Covarrubias)
Sol De America 0
HT: 1-0 **Ref:** Arnaldo Cesar Coelho (Brazil).
Cobreloa: Osben, Tabilo, Gomez, Tello, Puebla, Garcia, Alarcon, Trobbiani, Munoz, Espindola (Alvarez), Covarrubias.
Sol de America: Espinola, Martinez, Farina, Ramirez, Brugada, Centurion, Estigarribia, Britos, Brizuel a Cano, Almiron (Benitez), Jimenez.

CHILEAN champions Cobreloa put up one of their poorest performances and were outplayed by Sol de America for most of the game in spite of the latter team not being so accustomed to the 2,600 metres altitude. Sol de America should also have been awarded a penalty and deserved goals, but it was Cobreloa who scored after 25 minutes. Sol de America had Britos sent off for hitting Alarcon after 35 minutes, but his team continued to have the better of it after the interval in spite of playing a man short and always looked like equalizing against the disorganised Cobreloa defence. An unfair result.

March 17

Asuncion, Paraguay
Sol De America (Paraguay) 1 (Almiron, pen)
Colo Colo (Chile) 0
HT: 1-0 **Ref:** Luis Da Rosa (Uruguay). **Att:** 10,000
Sol de America: Espinola, Leguizamon, Ramirez, Farina, Brugada, Estigarribia, Centurion (Espinosa), Gimenez (Genes), Brizuela, Benitez, Almiron.

● *Continued overleaf*

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

● *Continued from previous page*

Colo Colo: Moron, Espinosa, Garrido, Gonzalez, Neculnir (Vilches), Ormeno, Pizarro, Jauregui, Salgado, Marticciotto, Careno (Dabrowsky).

SOL DE AMERICA were on top in the first half and scored the only goal with a penalty after 12 minutes. The second half was all Colo Colo who dominated with their faster pace, but the Paraguayan team held out.

March 10

Asuncion, Paraguay
Olimpia (Paraguay) 2 (Villalba, Amarilla).
Colo Colo (Chile) 0
HT: 1-0 **Ref:** Nestor Filippi (Uruguay). **Att:** 35,000.

Olimpia: Almeyda, Ramirez, Vergara, Fernandez, Portela, Sanabria, Benitez, Bobadilla (Torres), Villalba (Nino), Amarilla, Mendoza.

Colo Colo: Moron, Espinoza, Gonzalez, Garrido, Vilches, Ormeno (Carreno), Pizarro, Jauregui (Soto), Salgado, Barticcioto, Drabrowsky.

IN a close match Olimpia deserved victory although they only made it safe five minutes from the end when Amarilla made it 2-0 and they played with ten men for the last 25 minutes, winger Mendoza having been sent off. Colo Colo had pressed more in the second half.

March 14

Santiago, Chile
Colo Colo (Chile) 2 (Salgado, Barticciotto)
Olimpia (Paraguay) 0
HT: 1-0 **Ref:** Jorge Orellana (Ecuador). **Att:** 32,000.

Colo Colo: Moron, Espinoza, Garrido, Gonzalez, Vilches, Pizarro, Jauregui (Soto), Ormeno, Salgado, Carreno (Rodriguez), Barticoiotto.

Olimpia: Almeida, Ramirez, Fernandez (Balbuena), Vergara, Portela, Sanabria, Benitez, Bobadilla, Mino, Amarilla, Villalba.

COLO COLO turned the tables on their rivals only four days after having been beaten by them by the same score in Asuncion and they might have won by a bigger score if it had not been for Olimpia goal keeper Almeida's good saves. Olimpia again finished with ten men, having Sanabria sent off five minutes after the break.

March 17

Calama, Chile
Cobreloa (Chile) 2 (Espindola 2).
Olimpia(Paraguay) 0
HT: 0-0 **Ref:** Alfredo Rodas (Ecuador). **Att:** 14,000.

Cobreloa: Osban, Tabilo, Gomez, Tello, Puebla, Alarcon, Garcia, Trobbiani, Munoz (Alvarez), Espindola (Santander), Covarrubias.

Olimpia: Almeida, Ramirez, Vergara, Fernandez, Portela, Mino (Lugo), Benitez, Bobadilla (Chamas), Balbuena, Villalba, Amarilla.

OLIMPIA went all out for goals at the start, but they soon seemed to wilt in the 2,600 metre altitude and Cobreloa took midfield control with their Argentine veteran, Trobbiani, standing out and they lost chances before finally going ahead after 61 minutes.

Group 1 standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cobreloa	3	3	0	0	5	0	6
Colo Colo	5	2	0	3	5	8	4
Olimpia	4	1	1	2	2	4	3
Sol de America	4	1	1	2	2	4	3

Group 2
February 24

San Cristobal, Venezuela
Tachira (Venezuela) 1 (Jaimes)
Internacional (Brazil) 0
HT: 0-0 **Ref:** Arnaldo Gomez (Colombia). **Att:** 25,000.

Tachira: Francovig, Pacheco, Muriel, Paz, Rojas, Jaimes, Geonovese, Camacaro, Villar, Bachini, Pajurek.

Internacional: Taffarel, Winck, Aguirre-Garay, Nene, Casemiro, Martins, Leomir, Luiz Fernando, Heider, Nilson, Edu.

TACHIRA began playing defensively as they over-estimated their rivals but they gradually overcame their fears and took control of the match. Tachira mised several chances, but in the end their goalkeeper, Francovig, had to keep their lead intact with a penalty save from Edu.

March 2

Caracas, Venezuela
Maritimo (Venezuela) 1 (Marquez)
Internacional (Brazil) 1 (Aguirre)
HT: 0-0 **Ref:** Octavio Sierra (Colombia).

Maritimo: Nikolac, Isea, Rivas, Morovic, Betancourt, Polanco, San Vicente, Rizzi, Febles (Lopez), Marquez, Bebeto (Edilberto).

Internacional: Taffarel, Coelho, Aguirregaray, Nene (Heyder), Mior, Dacrose, De Souza, Martin, Aguirre, Nilson, Edu.

PLAYING in an empty stadium behind closed doors — due to political disturbances in Caracas which prompted the government to order a curfew — and only watched by club officials, reporters and security forces, Maritimo went ahead after 65 minutes and then played more defensively to keep it, but the Brazilians managed to equalize five minutes before the end.

March 4

Caracas, Venezuela
Maritimo (Venezuela) 0
Bahia (Brazil) 0
Ref: Carlos Montalvan (Peru).

Maritimo: Nikolac, Isea, Rivas, Betancourt, Morovic, Rizzi, Polanco (Edilberto), San Vicente, Febles, Marquez, Bebeto (Reyes).

Bahia: Ronaldo, Taranchini, Joao Marcelo, Newmar, Paulo Rodriguez, Paulo Robson, Gil, Bobo, Charles, Ze Carlos, Marquinho.

BAHIA showed more technique and experience in a poor, defensive orientated match, but the best scoring chance fell to Maritimo striker Marquez after only five minutes when a defensive mistake left him alone in front of an open goal. This game was also played behind closed doors due to the curfew mentioned in the previous match.

March 7

San Cristobal, Venezuela
Tachira (Venezuela) 1 (Genovese)
Bahia (Brazil) 1 (Gil)
HT: 1-1 **Ref:** Jose Ramirez (Peru). **Att:** 25,000.

Tachira: Francovig, Rojas, Pacheco, Paz, Muriel, Maldonado, Jaimes, Genovese, Camacaro (Gonzalez), Pajurek (Tarazona), Villar.

Bahia: Ronaldo, Tarantini, Joao Marcelo, Newmar, Paolo Robson, Paolo Rodriguez, Charles, Gil, Ze Carlos, Bobo, Marquinhos.

TACHIRA attacked strongly to take a 24 minute lead, but they fell away in the last ten minutes of the first half and the Brazilians equalised just on the break. The second half saw Bahia play good passing football and they took over midfield control, but were unable to turn their superiority into goals.

March 12

San Cristobal, Venezuela
Tachira (Venezuela) 2 (Maldonado, Becerra)
Maritimo (Venezuela) 0
HT: 1-0

Tachira: Francovig, Rojas, Pacheco, Paz, Muriel, Genovese, Jaimes, Maldonado, Camacaro (Becerra), Gonzalez, Villar (Hernandez).

Maritimo: Nicoloak, Rivas, Betancourt, Lopez, Morovoic, Rizzi, Polanco, San Vicente, Febles (Bebeto), Marquez (Reyes), Edilberto.

MALDONADO put Tachira ahead right from the kick-off, but they did not make their victory safe until Becerra's second goal eight minutes from the end. In between Maritimo had the better of the exchanges and were attacking strongly when Tachira's second goal came in a counter-attack.

March 14

Salvador, Brazil
Bahia (Brazil) 1 (Charles)
Internacional (Brazil) 0
HT: 0-0 **Ref:** Luis Carlos Felix (Brazil). **Att:** 17,000.

Bahia: Ronaldo, Tarantini (Edinho), Joao Marcelo, Newmar, Paulo Robson, Paulo Rodriguez, Gil, Ze Carlos, Osmar, Charles, Marquinhos.

Internacional: Taffarel, Luis Carlos Winck, Norton, Nene (Dacros), Casemiro, Norberto, Leomir (Heider), Luis Carlos Martins, Luis Fernando, Nilson, Ado.

BAHIA deserved more than their one goal victory margin as they attacked constantly, but Internacional, who came looking for a draw to improve their chances of qualifying for the next round, played a defensive and counter attack game. Internacional were down to ten men for two thirds of the game as Nilson was sent off after 33 minutes for insulting a linesman.

March 17

Salvador, Brazil
Bahia (Brazil) 3 (Charles 2, Osmar)
Maritimo (Venezuela) 2 (Polanco, Marquez, pen)
HT: 1-1 **Ref:** Carlos Maciel (Paraguay). **Att:** 21,340.

Bahia: Ronaldo, Tarantini, Joao Marcelo, Newmar, Paulo Robson, Paulo Rodriguez, Gil, Ze Carlos, Osmar (Marcelo), Charles, Marquinhos.

Maritimo: Nicolak, Isea, Ribas, Morovic, Betancourt, Rizzi, San Vicente, Polanco, Edilberto, Marquez, Bebeto.

BAHIA showed more experience but were never really on top as they were below form. Maritimo played defensively for a draw, but it did not work as their midfield was weak and their goalkeeper, Nicolak, saved them from a bigger defeat.

Group 2 standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bahia*	5	4	1	0	7	4	8
Tachira*	4	3	1	0	5	1	7
Maritimo	5	0	2	3	3	7	2
Internacional	4	0	1	3	2	4	1

***Already qualified for second round.**

Group 3

February 24

Quito, Ecuador
Deportivo Quito (Ecuador) 1 (Aguinaga, pen)
Nacional (Colombia) 1 (Higuita, pen.)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Jose Ramirez (Peru).

Deportivo Quito: Enriquez, Angulo, Perez, Rivera, Escalada, Vega, Panchi, Mendoza, Aguinaga, Yepez (Barrero), Quinonez (La Rose).

Nacional: Higuita, Gomez, Perea, Escobar, Villa, Perez, Alvarez, Valderrama (Arboleda), Garcia, Arango (Galeano), Trellez.

AN even game with a lot of midfield play as both teams had a lot of men in that zone. The better ball play of the Colombians gave them slight superiority.

February 28

Guayaquil, Ecuador
Emelec (Ecuador) 0
Millonarios (Colombia) 2 (Bernal, Hernandez).
HT: 0-1 **Ref:** Salvador Imperatore (Peru). **Att:** 45,000.

Emelec: Baldriz, Fajardo, Canga, Valdez, Capurro, Falero (Castillo), Verduga, Minda, Martinez, Aviles, Aparicio.

Millonarios: Goycochea, Gamero, Conde, Cuesta, Galeano, Pimentel, Vanemerak, Iguaran, Estrada (Bernal), Juarez (Mesa), Hernandez.

VISITORS Millonarios surprised with a 4-2-4 formation and a constant attacking game, fast up the wings, which spelt continuous danger. Millonarios took the lead just before half time. Emelec pressed more for an equalizer in the second half and missed chances while Millonarios scored their second three minutes from the end.

March 3

Quito, Ecuador
Dep. Quito (Ecuador) 0
Millonarius (Colombia) 0
Ref: Gaston Castro (Chile) **Att:** 35,000

Dep.Quito: Enriquez, Angulo, Perez, Rivera, Escalada, Vega, Panchi, Mendoza, Aguinaga, La Rosa (Carcelen), Yepez.

Millonarios: Goycochea, Gamero, Cuesta, Conde, Galeano, Pimentel, Vanemerak, Bernal, Iguaran, Juarez (Mesa), Hernandez.

ON a muddy field (due to heavy rain two hours before the match) Deportivo Quito pressed for victory from the start, missed chances and were also stopped by good goalkeeping of Goycochea. Quito managed to stop the Colombian team's dangerous forwards, but could not get past the latter's defence which at times had to resort to clearing the ball anywhere.

March 7

Medellin, Colombia
Nacional (Colombia) 0
Millonarios (Colombia) 2 (Iguaran 2)

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

HT: 0-0 **Ref:** Juan C Loustau (Argentina) **Att:** 35,000.

Nacional: Higuita, Gomez, Perea, Escobar, Villa, Garcia, Alvarez, Fajardo, Trellez, Arango (Galeano), Valderrama.

Millonarios: Goycochea, Gamero, Conde, Cuesta, Galeano, Vanemerack, Pimentel, Bernal, Iguaran, Juarez (Meza), Hernandez (Abonia).

NACIONAL pressed more in the first half and were stopped mostly by Millonarios goalkeeper Goycochea, the Argentine international. Higuita, Nacional's goalkeeper who usually scores from penalties, missed one for once just before half time. Millonarios attacked more in the second half and were more practical, especially with counter-attacks.

March 10

Quito, Ecuador
Dep. Quito (Ecuador) 1 (Aguinaga)
Emelec (Ecuador) 0
HT: 0-0 **Ref:** Enrique Marin (Chile) **Att:** 10,000.

Dep.Quito: Enriquez, Angulo, Perez, Rivera, Encalada, Panchi, Vega, Mendoza (Pavon), Anguinaga, Carcelen, Yepez.

Emelec: Baldriz, Fajardo, Canga, Valdez, Capurro, Falero, Verduga, Minda, Martinez (Roh), Aviles, Aparicio (Castillo).

DEPORTIVO Quito were closer to scoring for most of the way and also had more of the ball being well worth their victory.

March 14

Medellin, Colombia
Nacional (Colombia) 2 (Arango, Escobar)
Deportivo Quito (Ecuador) 1 (Aguinaga A.)
HT: 1-1 **Ref:** Castro Lozada (Venezuela) **Att:** 25,000.

Nacional: Higuita, Gomez, Perea, Escobar, Villa, Garcia, Alvarez, Arango, Fajardo (Castaneda), Valderrama, Trellez (Galeano).

Dep.Quito: Enriquez, Angulo, Perez, Rivera, Encalada, Panchi, Vega (M.Aguinaga), A. Aguinaga, Mendoza, Carcelen, Yepez (Pavon).

AFTER early Quito attacks, Nacional took control of the game, but found problems in getting past the right home defence. Three men were sent off — Angulo (DQ) and Arango (N) for fighting just before half time and Perez (DQ) four minutes from the end.

March 17

Bogota, Colombia
Millonarios (Colombia) 3 (Iguaran, Cuesta, Juarez)
Deportivo Quito (Ecuador) 1 (Pavon)
HT: 2-0 **Ref:** Jose Vergara (Venezuela) **Att:** 22,000.

Millonarios: Goicochea, Gamero, Cuesta, Conde, Galeano, Vanemerak, Pimentel, Juarez, Iguaran, Hernandez (Raigosa), Quinones (Campagna).

Dep. Quito: Enriquez, M.Aguinaga, Bolivar, Rivera, Ordonez (Alvarez), Encalada, Panchi, Mendoza, A.Aguinaga, Carcelen, Yepes (Pavon).

MILLONARIOS made sure of a second round place with this win and the result also put their compatriots, Nacional, into the second stage. Millonarios were dangerous in attack, with Iguaren outstanding — he put them ahead after 10 minutes — while Deportivo Quito defended and counter-attacked when they could. Their goal came only in the final minute.

Group 3 standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Millonarios*	5	3	2	0	8	2	8
Nacional*	5	1	3	1	5	5	5
Dep.Quito	6	1	2	3	4	7	4
Emelec	4	1	1	2	2	5	3

*Qualified for second round.

Group 4

February 28

Lima, Peru
Universitario (Peru) 2 (Suarez, Servera)
Racing Club (Argentina) 1 (Videla pen)
HT: 2-1 **Ref:** Armando Perez (Colombia) **Att:** 40,000.

Universitario: Chaves, Carranza, Requena, Del Solar, Vidales, Bazalar, Cervera, Yanez (Reyna), Suarez, Rey, Torrealva (Briceno).

Racing: Balerio, Olaran, Zacanti, G.Costas, Olarticoechea, Perez (Colmbatti), Videla, Iglesias, Paz, Sanchez (Roa), Medina Bello.

UNIVERSITARIO deserved victory in an incident packed match with poor soccer which saw the sending off of Racing goalkeeper Balerio and Carranza (U) in the first half and Olaran (R) in the second while mistake prone referee Armando Perez also showed eight warning cards.

March 3

Lima, Peru
Sporting Cristal (Peru) 1 (Manasero)
Racing Club (Argentina) 2 (Paz, Iglesias)
HT: 1-2 **Ref:** Jose Palacios (Colombia) **Att:** 19,500.

Sporting Cristal: Gonzales, Arrelucea, Cruz, Arteaga, Olivares, Diaz, Ochandarte (Calvo), Olaechea, Loyola, Manasero, Rehder (Lobo).

Racing: Fillol, Vasquez, Zacanti, G.Costas, Olarticoechea, Acuna, Lamadrid, Ortega (Colombatti), Paz, Iglesias, Videla (F.Costas).

RACING fought for the ball more in the first half and with more ball control and pressure they deservedly led 2-1 at the break, but in the second half Sporting attacked more and Fillol — rushed to Lima after an injury layoff and as a result of Balerio being sent off against Universitario earlier in the week — had to make some good saves to keep his team's lead. Racing were pressed back in the last 20 minutes, but the Peruvian attack lacked punch.

March 8

Buenos Aires, Argentina
Boca Juniors (Argentina) 3 (J. Comas 2, Tapia)
Racing Club (Argentina) 2 (Medina Bello, Paz)
HT: 2-0 **Ref:** Jorge Tejada (Peru)

Boca Juniors: Navarro Montoya, Stafuza, Tavares, Cuciuffo (Simon), Erbin, Carrizo, Marangoni (Villarreal), Tapia, Graciani, Perazzo, Comas.

Racing: Balerio, Olarticoechea, G.Costas, Zacanti, Olaran, Acuna, Lamadrid, Paz, Videla (Medina Bello), Iglesias, Ortega Sanchez.

COMAS gave Boca a 2-0 lead within ten minutes and Racing's strategy of playing five halves and only one forward (Iglesias) favoured Boca in keeping up the pressure. Medina Bello strengthened Racing's attack in the second half and he scored after six minutes to put his team more into the game. Paz equalized with a free-kick and Tapia netted Boca's winner with 27 minutes to go in what became a close, hard-fought match in the second half.

Lima, Peru
Universitario (Peru) 4 (Suarez 2, Briceno, Cervera)
Sporting Cristal (Peru) 0
HT: 0-0 **Ref:** Jorge Tejada (Peru) **Att:** 24,000.

Universitario: Chavez, Rojas, Requena, Del Solar, Vidales, Bazalar, Cervera, Yanez (Eugenio), Suarez, Rey Munoz, Torrealva (Briceno).

Sporting Cristal: Gonzalez, Arrelucea, Arteaga, Cruz, Olaechea, Diaz, Bone (Loyola), Olivares, Ramirez, Dall'Orso, Manasero (Lobo).

A POOR first half, in which Universitario had a few more chances, ended with no goals, but Universitario were well on top in the second half when they scored all the goals. Sporting became desperate and resorted to rough play which left them with ten men for the last 20 minutes, Loyola being sent off for starting a fight.

March 14

Buenos Aires, Argentina
Boca Juniors (Argentina) 2 (Comas, Stafuza)
Universitario (Peru) 0 HT: 1-0 **Ref:** Jose Martinez Bazan (Uruguary) **Att:** 35,000.

Boca Juniors: Navarro Montoya, Stafuza, Simon, Cuciuffo, Erbin, Carrizo, Marangoni, Latorre, Graciani, Perazzo (Villareal), Comas.

Universitario: Chavez, Rojas (Bazalar), Requena, Del Solar, Videles, Carranza, Cervera, Briceno, Suarez (Gonzalez), Rey Munoz, Yanez.

COMAS gave Boca an eight minute lead, but their superiority was based mostly on superior individual action as they lacked midfield control. Universitario strengthened their attack for the second half, but their forwards lacked punch — with Simon standing out in the home defence and Boca continued to be the more dangerous.

March 18

Buenos Aires, Argentina
Racing Club (Argentina) 2 (Iglesias, Ortega Sanchez, pen)
Universitario (Peru) 0 HT: 1-0 **Ref:** J D Cardellino (Uruguay)

Racing: Fillol, Vasquez, G. Costas, Zacanti, Olarticoechea, Acuna, Lamadrid, Ortega Sanchez (Colombatti), Paz, Medina Bello (F.Costas), Iglesias.

Universitario: Chavez, Trece, Requena, Del Solar, Vidales, Reyna, Cervera (Suarez), Bazalar, Rey Munoz (Gonzalez), Briceno, Yanez.

RACING, well led by midfield general Ruben Paz, were on top, went ahead after 23 minutes and had chances to widen their lead in the first half. Universitario were left with ten men shortly after half time, defender Trece being sent off, and never fought back and a penalty by Ortega Sanchez after 68 minutes made it safe.

Group 4 standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Universitario	6	3	0	3	7	4	6
Boca Juniors	5	2	1	2	5	3	5
Racing	5	2	1	2	7	6	5
Sporting Cristal	4	2	0	2	3	6	4

Group 5

February 24

La Paz, Bolivia
Bolivar (Bolivia) 3 (Lopez, pen, Sanchez, Salinas)
Penarol (Uruguay) 0 HT: 0-0 **Ref:** A. Martinez (Paraguay) **Att:** 50,000.

Bolivar: Barrero, Ibanez, Ferrufino, Arias, Sanchez, Borja, Soria, Lopez, Urruti, Salinas, Hirano.

Penarol: Ferro, Herrera, Rotti, Goncalvez, Doas Santos, Saralegui, Perdomo, Da Silva, Sanchez, Aguilera, Baran. (Changes Gomez/ Perdomo.)

PENAROL played defensively with a 4-4-2 formation all through while Bolivar's attack lacked penetration in the first half which ended without goals. Bolivar managed to find the way to goal in the second half however and goalkeeper Ferro stopped them from running up a bigger score.

February 28

La Paz, Bolivia
The Strongest (Bolivia) 1 (Ortega)
Danubio (Uruguay) 0
HT: 0-0 **Ref:** Ricardo Calabria (Argentina) **Att:** 34,500.

The Strongest: Gariazu, Montano, Fontana, Martinez, Illanes, Villegas, Coronado, Luna, Ortega, Jimenez (Rocha), Ayaviri.

Danubio: Zeoli, Da Luz (Gomez), Sanchez, Kanapkis, Cabrera, Moas, Pereira, Borges, Suarez, Da Silva, Dalto (Streccia).

THE STRONGEST dominated for most of the game, but lacked organisation while Danubio's players tired in the 3,600 metre altitude. The only goal came just after half time when Ortega made use of a defensive mistake. Fighting broke out among the players after 60 minutes and the game was held up for a few minutes while the referee sent off Pereira (D) and Ayaviri (TS).

March 3

La Paz, Bolivia
Bolivar (Bolivia) 3 (Sanchez 2, Hirano)
Danubio (Uruguay) 1 (Dalto)
HT: 1-1 **Ref:** Juan C Loustau (Argentina) **Att:** 50,000.

Bolivar: Barrero, Ibanez, Arias, Ferrufino, Sanchez, Borja, Soria, Lopez, Urruti, Salinas, Hirano.

Danubio: Zeoli, Sanchez, Da Luz (Gomez), Kanapkis, Cabrera, Streccia, Suarez, Moas, Borges, Da Silva (Rodriguez), Dalto.

BOTH sides played attacking soccer in a good game which Bolivar played with ten men for the second half as they had midfielder Urruti sent off just

● *Continued overleaf*

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

● *Continued from previous page*

after the break. Danubio tired against Bolivar's fast rhythm in the second half however and were mostly on the defensive, the altitude seeming to be the main factor favouring the home team.

March 8

Montevideo, Uruguay
Penarol (Uruguay) 2 (Aguilera 2)
Danubio (Uruguay) 0
HT: 0-0 **Ref:** Juan Cardellino (Uruguay) **Att:** 35,000.

Penarol: Ferro, Herrera, Rotti, Goncalves, Dominguez, Saralegui, Perdomo, Da Silva, Aguilera, Baran, Villar (Correa).

Danubio: Zeoli, Da Luz, Sanchez, Kanapkis, Cabrera, Suarez, Streccia, Moas (Rodriquez), Da Silva, Borges, Dalto.

BOTH teams fought for midfield control in the first half without getting proper attacks going, but Penarol did show more experience against their young rivals and marked them closely. In the second half Perdomo and Saralegui gained midfield control for Penarol who attacked dangerously to take the lead after 69 minutes. Danubio fought back for the equalizer, but were well marked and also lacked precision while Aguilera scored his second goal when time added for stoppages was being played.

La Paz, Bolivia
Bolivar (Bolivia) 0
The Strongest (Bolivia) 0
Att: 35,000.

IN a close marking match in which defences were on top Bolivar did not repeat their performances of recent cup matches and The Strongest came a bit nearer to scoring with Bolivar's goalkeeper, Barrero, having to work harder.

March 14

Montevideo, Uruguay
DANUBIO (Uruguay) 1 (Suarez)
Bolivar (Bolivia) 0
HT: 0-0 **Ref:** Romualdo Arpi Filho (Brazil)

Danubio: Zeoli, Da Luz, Sanchez, Kanapkis, Cabrera, Moas, Pereira, Borges, Surez (Gomez), Da Silva, Dalto (Rodriquez).

Bolivar: Barrero, Cuevas (Sanchez), Ferrufino, Arias, Ibanez, Lopez, Salinas, Borja, Soria, Hirano, Urruti.

AN even game with close midfield marking and few deep attacks, but the goalkeepers were the men of the match — Zeoli (D) and Barrero (B) — and they each saved a penalty. The only goal came after 53 minutes.

March 17

Montevideo, Uruguay
Penarol (Uruguay) 5 (Aguilera 3, Cedres, Baran)
Bolivar (Bolivia) 0
HT: 2-0 **Ref:** Arnaldo Coelho (Brazil)

Penarol: Ferro, Herrera, Rotti, Goncalvez, Dominguez, Saralegui, Perdomo (Sanchez), Cedres, Aguilera, Barain, Villar.

Bolivar: Barrero, Ibanez, Arias, Ferrfino, Borja, Urruti, Soria, Lopez, Sanchez (Rimba), Salinas, Hirano.

PENAROL were as much on top as the score suggests playing their best game of the tournament so far while Bolivar made defensive mistakes.

Group 5 standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Penarol	5	3	0	2	10	8	6
Bolivar	6	2	2	2	6	7	6
The Strongest	4	1	2	1	2	2	4
Danubio	5	2	0	3	6	7	4

MAJOR CLUB INTERNATIONALS

Mar 7 — Cruz Azul (Mexico) 2 Nacional (Uruguay) 1; Mar 16 — America (Colombia) 3 Nacional (Uruguay) 2.

OTHER INTERNATIONALS

Mar 2 — Costa Rica select O Nacional (Uruguay) 0; Concepcion select. (Chile) 1 Argentinos Juniors (Argentina) 2; Mar 14 — Sport Colombia (Paraguay) 1 USA select 2; Mar 17 — Cerro Porteno (Paraguay) 1 (3 p.) USA select. 1 (4 p.).

WORLD CUP QUALIFYING

North/Central America final round

March 19

Guatemala City, Guatemala
GUATEMALA 1 (Chacon pen.)
COSTA RICA 0

HT: 1-0 **Ref:** Antonio Evangelista (Canada). **Att:** 45,000.

Guatemala: Jerez, Davila, Wellman, Monzon, Ortiz (MacDonald), Ceballos (Rivera), Funes, Rodas, Westphal, Chacon, Castaneda.

Costa Rica: Conejo, Quesada, Flores, Montero, Diaz, Chavarria, Solano (Wanchope), Guimaraes (Cayaso), Jara, Coronado, Medford.

GUATEMALA dominated the first half to gain a deserved half-time lead, while Costa Rica came out for the second half determined to equalise, forcing Jerez to some good saves to keep his team ahead. Two midfield changes made by coach Jorge Roldan midway through the second half put Guatemala on top again in this first match of the zone's final round in which El Salvador, Trinidad and Tobago and the United States are the other participants and which will put the top two in the 1990 finals.

INTER-AMERICAN CUP

March 5

Tegucigalpa, Honduras
OLIMPIA (Honduras) 1 (Rivera, pen.)
NACIONAL (Uruguay) 1 (Fonseca)
HT: 0-1 **Ref:** Jose Garza (Mexico).
Att: 30,000.

NACIONAL started off with more rhythm in this first leg for the trophy played between winners of the champions trophies of South America and the North/Central American zone and took a 17 minute lead. Olimpia settled down in the second half to first even up the game and then take control to gain a deserved equalizer 25 minutes from the end.

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Tirol	28	20	4	4	60	29	28
Austria	28	15	8	5	61	30	23
Ad Wacker	28	14	7	7	52	40	20
Vienna	28	9	12	7	44	42	19
Rapid	28	12	6	10	48	32	18
Vienna	28	11	5	12	53	52	17
VSE St. Poel	28	10	6	12	35	49	14
GAK	28	8	9	11	30	45	14

BULGARIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CFCA Sredets	23	16	6	1	68	20	38
Vitosha	23	13	4	6	46	30	30
Trakia	23	10	7	6	40	27	27
Etar	23	9	7	7	36	23	25
Dounav Russe	23	11	3	9	21	22	25
Beroe	23	10	5	8	35	38	25
Lok. Sofia	23	10	3	10	29	28	23
Tcherno More	23	8	6	9	23	32	22
Slavia	23	7	7	9	26	27	21
Lok. Plovdiv	23	9	3	11	14	45	21
Pirin	23	9	2	12	24	25	20
Sliven	23	8	3	12	26	32	19
Mineur	23	7	5	11	26	32	19
Spartak Varna	23	6	7	10	29	36	19
Lokomotiv GO	23	8	2	13	18	32	18
Vratza	23	4	8	11	19	41	16

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sparta Prague	23	15	5	3	57	20	35
B. Ostrava	23	14	4	5	35	21	32
Pl. Nitra	23	12	3	8	29	28	27
Dukla Prague	23	10	4	9	40	32	24
DAC Dunajska	23	10	4	9	25	32	24
Vitkovice	23	11	1	11	44	28	23
Spartak Trnava	23	9	5	9	27	28	23
S. Olomouc	22	9	4	9	32	28	22
Slavia Prague	22	10	2	10	36	37	22
Sl. Bratislava	23	9	4	10	27	29	22
Duk. Bystrica	23	9	3	11	35	47	21
I. Bratislava	23	8	4	11	39	45	20
Sk. Pilsen	23	8	2	13	35	41	18
RH. Cheb	23	7	4	12	27	37	18
Bohemians	23	8	2	13	30	45	18
Sp. Kralove	23	6	5	12	24	44	17

EAST GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dyn. Dresden	19	14	3	2	49	20	31
Hansa Rostock	19	11	2	6	28	19	24
Dynamo Berlin	18	8	6	4	38	23	22
Karl-Marx-St	19	8	5	6	29	29	21
Lok. Leipzig	20	8	4	8	29	20	20
Carl Zeiss	19	8	4	7	27	19	20
Wismut Aue	19	7	4	8	25	30	18
Cottbus	19	8	2	9	23	30	18
Magdeburg	19	6	5	8	23	22	17
Chemie Halle	19	5	6	8	23	30	16
Brandeburg	19	7	2	10	26	34	16
Rot W. Erfurt	19	7	2	10	21	29	16
Union Berlin	19	5	4	10	18	35	14
Zwickau	19	6	1	12	23	42	13

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AEK Athens	28	18	5	5	45	21	41
Olympiakos	28	16	8	4	53	23	40
Panathinaikos	28	13	9	6	43	23	35
Iraklis	28	12	10	6	39	25	34
Larissa	28	10	13	5	35	29	33
Aris	28	10	11	7	29	24	31
OFI Crete	28	11	8	9	38	33	30
PAOK	28	11	8	9	33	29	30
Panionios	28	10	6	12	31	33	26
Doxa	28	9	8	11	25	27	26
Olymp. Volos	28	5	13	10	32	43	23
Levadiakos	28	8	7	13	30	44	23
Apollon	28	6	9	13	26	34	21
Ethikos	28	5	11	12	28	45	21
Diagoras	28	4	10	14	19	41	18
Kalamaria	28	4	8	16	22	54	16

HOLLAND

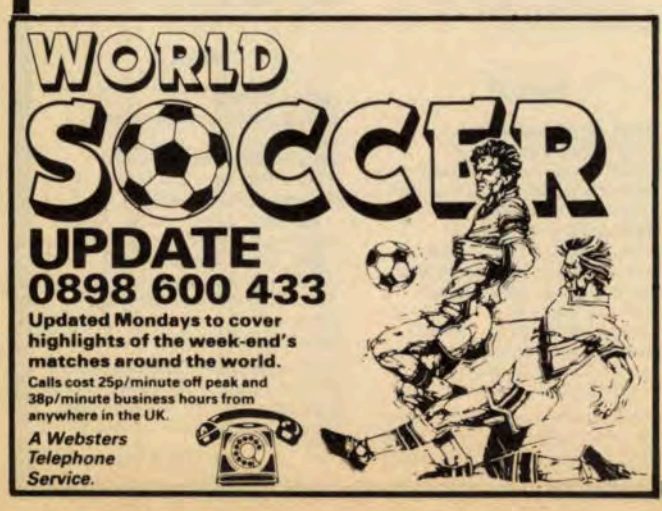
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PSV Eindhoven	29	20	4	5	69	30	44
Ajax	29	19	5	5	68	30	43
Feyenoord	29	14	7	8	57	43	35
FC Twente	29	9	16	4	39	22	34
Groningen	29	13	7	8	58	41	33
Roda JC	29	11	11	7	44	33	33
Fort. Sittard	29	11	9	9	36	31	31
Haarlem	29	10	9	10	32	40	29
Den Bosch	29	11	6	12	36	46	28
Sparta	29	8	11	10	36	41	27
FC Volendam	29	10	6	13	36	47	26
FC Utrecht	28	10	5	13	43	46	25
Roozendaal KC	29	8	7	14	47	58	23
Willem II	29	7	9	13	41	58	23
Maastricht VV	28	8	7	13	35	52	23
Veendam	28	8	5	15	33	50	21
PEC Zwolle	29	7	7	15	40	60	21
VV Venlo	29	3	13	13	30	52	19

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inter Milan	25	20	4	1	47	12	44
Napoli	25	15	7	3	47	20	37
Milan	25	11	10	4	42	19	32
Sampdoria	25	11	9	5	32	16	31
Juventus	25	11	8	6	38	30	30
Atalanta	25	8	12	5	26	21	28
Fiorentina	25	11	5	9	37	34	27
Roma	25	8	8	9	24	20	24
Verona	25	4	15	6	15	19	23
Bologna	27	7	8	10	21	29	22
Pescara	25	5	11	9	24	34	21
Lecce	25	6	9	10	18	29	21
Torino	25	6	8	11	27	35	20
Lazio	25	2	15	8	17	25	19
Ascoli	25	5	8	12	19	31	18
Cesena	25	4	10	11	18	31	18
Como	25	5	8	12	17	35	18
Pisa	25	4	9	12	12	31	17

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Benfica	30	21	7	2	46	11	49
Porto	30	15	13	2	39	14	43
Boavista	30	15	8	7	43	22	38
Sporting	30	14	8	8	41	24	36
Sporting	30	14	8	8	41	24	36
Nacional	30	12	8	10	39	37	32
Guimaraes	30	11	10	9	28	23	32
Braga	30	12	8	10	35	31	32
Setubal	30	12	8	10	36	31	32
Chaves	30	12	7	11	32	27	31
Belenenses	30	9	13	8	35	25	31
Amadora	30	1	9	10	25	30	31
Maritimo	30	8	12	10	31	30	28
Penafiel	30	9	10	11	27	30	28
Beira Mar	30	8	10	12	25	31	26
Portimonense	30	8	10	12	24	30	26
Espinho	30	8	7	15	34	49	23
Leixoes	30	7	8	15	22	35	22
Fafe	30	6	10	14	19	40	22
Farense	30	6	9	15	22	16	21
Viseu	30	5	7	18	17	54	17



LEAGUE TABLES . . . LEAGUE TABLES . . .

HUNGARY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ferencvaros	22	13	1	2	6	35	26	43
Honved	22	11	5	0	6	30	22	42
MTK-VM	22	10	6	1	5	33	28	42
Videotron	22	13	0	2	7	44	25	41
Raba Eto	22	12	2	1	7	35	23	41
Vac	22	10	4	3	5	30	23	41
Tatabanya	22	10	1	5	6	31	25	37
Bekescs	22	10	1	2	9	33	28	34
Siofok	22	7	3	4	8	27	29	31
Pecs	22	6	4	4	8	25	26	30
Veszprem	22	6	4	2	10	19	31	28
Zalaegers	22	5	3	5	9	31	30	26
Haladas	22	5	3	4	10	24	34	25
Ujpest	22	6	1	4	11	27	29	24
Vasas	22	4	2	5	11	23	47	21
Dunaujv	22	2	5	2	12	24	45	20

POLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gornik Zabrze	16	10	3	3	31	13	27
GKS Katowice	16	10	4	2	27	10	27
Ruch Chorzow	16	10	4	2	20	8	26
Legia	16	8	4	4	23	10	23
Lech Poznan	16	8	3	5	25	17	19
Stal Mielec	16	7	4	5	19	16	18
LKS Lodz	16	6	4	6	18	19	17
Widzew Lodz	16	4	8	4	13	12	16
J. Bialystok	16	5	6	5	10	13	16
Wisla Krakow	16	5	4	7	19	22	13
Pogon Szczecin	16	5	4	7	22	28	13
Ol. Poznan	16	5	2	9	16	26	10
Slask Wroclaw	16	2	7	7	9	21	9
Sz. Bytom	16	3	4	9	21	32	8
Walbrzych	16	4	2	10	11	24	7
Jastrzebie	16	3	3	10	6	19	7

WEST GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern Munich	22	12	10	0	42	17	34
Koln	22	12	5	5	37	17	29
Werder Bremen	22	11	7	4	36	22	29
Hamburg	21	11	5	5	39	22	27
Stuttgart	22	10	5	7	38	21	25
Borussia Mg	21	7	10	4	28	25	24
Bayer Uerdingen	22	7	10	5	32	26	24
Bayer Leverkusen	22	7	10	5	30	26	21
Karlsruhe	22	9	5	8	33	31	23
St Pauli	22	6	11	5	24	21	23
Borussia D'mund	22	6	10	6	33	24	22
Kaiserslautern	22	6	10	6	32	27	22
Bochum	21	6	6	9	23	29	18
Nurnberg	22	6	4	12	24	38	16
Eint. Frankfurt	22	5	5	12	14	35	15
Waldhof Mannheim	22	2	9	11	21	41	13
Hannover	22	3	7	12	20	40	13
Stut. Kickers	21	3	5	13	20	40	13

RUMANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dinamo	19	18	1	0	80	16	37
Steaua	19	18	1	0	71	16	37
Vicoria	19	12	3	4	49	31	27
Inter Sibiu	19	10	2	7	26	28	22
Flacara M	19	8	3	8	33	25	19
Olt	19	6	7	6	19	27	19
Corvinul	19	8	2	9	26	39	18
Brasov	19	7	3	8	33	34	17
Un. Cluj Nap	19	6	5	8	22	34	17
Bihor	19	6	4	9	20	21	16
Bacau	19	7	2	10	35	35	16
Arges Pitesti	19	7	2	10	34	36	16
Sportul S	19	7	2	10	29	38	16
Rapid	19	7	2	10	19	32	16
Un. Craiova	19	5	5	9	28	40	15
Farul	19	6	2	11	15	29	14
Otelul	19	5	4	10	22	38	14
Asa TG Mures	19	2	2	15	12	53	6

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	24	17	7	0	62	24	41
Barcelona	25	16	6	3	54	20	38
Valencia	25	11	9	5	24	18	31
Atl. Madrid	25	12	5	8	44	31	29
Celta	24	11	7	6	25	24	29
Bilbao	25	9	9	7	28	24	27
Gijon	25	10	7	8	28	26	27
Valladolid	25	11	4	10	24	19	26
Osasuna	24	9	8	7	29	27	26
Oviedo	25	9	7	9	28	26	25
Sevilla	25	7	10	8	25	25	24
Logrones	25	7	10	8	16	21	24
Zaragoza	25	7	9	9	28	34	23
Real Sociedad	24	7	9	8	23	29	23
Cadiz	25	5	9	11	18	28	19
Malaga	25	6	7	12	23	34	19
Betis	25	4	10	11	24	38	18
Murcia	25	7	4	14	22	39	18
Espanol	25	3	11	11	21	34	17
Elche	25	4	4	17	17	42	12

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lucerne	1	1	0	0	2	1	16
Wettingen	1	1	0	0	2	0	14
Sion	1	1	0	0	3	2	14
Belinzona	1	0	1	0	0	0	14
Grasshoppers	1	0	0	1	0	2	14
Xamax	1	0	1	0	0	0	13
Young Boys	1	0	0	1	1	2	12
Servette	1	0	0	1	2	3	11

Note: Includes first round points.

MALTA

Final

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sliema	16	10	4	1	32	15	26
Valletta	16	9	5	2	22	7	23
Hamrun	16	8	4	4	30	14	20
Floriana	16	6	6	4	18	11	18
Zurrieq	16	5	3	8	14	21	18
Naxxar	16	3	6	7	9	21	12
Hibernians	16	2	8	6	15	20	12
Rabat	16	2	6	8	13	25	12
Birkirkara	16	1	5	10	14	30	7

ALGERIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sidi Bel-Abbes	21	9	8	4	30	20	26
Tizi-Ouzou	21	10	6	5	22	15	26
Moul. Alger	21	11	3	7	20	18	25
El Harrach	21	9	6	6	15	14	24
Assoc. Oran	21	9	5	7	24	18	23
Relizane	21	7	9	5	21	19	23
Annaba	20	7	7	6	21	15	21
Tiaret	21	8	8	7	25	23	22
Un. d'Alger	20	6	8	6	20	18	20
Moul. d'Oran	21	7	5	9	21	23	19
Constantine	25	8	7	9	17	18	18
Kouba	21	6	6	9	15	25	18
Ain-Beida	21	6	5	10	19	29	17
Bordj menaiel	19	6	4	9	21	21	16
Ain M'lila	20	3	6	7	13	18	16
Collo	21	4	8	9	17	26	16

MOROCCO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
OCK Khouribga	16	10	5	1	16	5	41
MAS Fes	16	8	4	4	17	9	36
NAC Casa	16	6	7	3	19	4	35
KAC Ken	16	6	7	3	15	4	35
Agadir	16	6	7	3	17	14	35
CLAS. Casa	15	7	5	3	19	13	34
FAR Rabat	16	6	6	4	17	10	34
Marrakech	15	6	7	2	12	8	34
Benslimane	16	5	7	4	18	16	33
RAJA Casa	16	4	8	4	13	24	32
El-Jadida	16	3	7	6	15	19	29
FUS Rabat	16	5	3	8	11	21	29
Tanger	15	3	6	6	12	16	27
Sidi Kacem	15	2	6	7	20	22	25
COCm Meknes	16	3	3	10	12	23	25
Hilal Nador	16	2	2	12	4	30	22

TUNISIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Esperance	20	14	5	1	36	10	67
Club Africain	20	10	6	4	31	22	56
Stade Tunisien	20	9	8	3	30	19	55
Sfax RS	20	9	7	4	27	17	54
Et. Sp. Sahel	20	7	8	5	26	17	49
Club Sp. Sfax	20	5	11	4	15	20	46
Club Ol. Trans	19	7	5	7	20	18	45
Av. Sp. Marsa	20	5	8	7	23	23	43
Union Sp. Mon.	19	4	11	4	19	22	42
Avenir Sp. Kas.	20	5	7	8	17	34	42
Club Athl. Biz	19	3	9	7	8	13	37
Olymp. Beja	20	5	2	13	17	29	37
Jeun. Sp. Kair	19	4	5	10	15	23	36
OC Kerkennah	20	2	6	12	5	25	32

YUGOSLAVIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Vojvodina	20	10	5	0	5	28	19	25
Rad	20	8	6	1	5	25	16	22
Hajduk	20	8	5	2	5	23	13	21
Dinamo Zagreb	20	10	1	4	5	29	21	21
Velez	20	9	1	2	8	29	22	19
Radnicki	20	8	2	4	6	31	23	18
Vardar	20	8	2	3	7	24	32	18
Spartak	20	7	4	0	9	26	23	18
Red Star	20	8	1	5	6	24	23	17
Osijek	20	6	5	0	9	24	33	17
Rijeka	20	8	0	5	7	26	22	16
Partizan	20	6	3	4	7	25	22	15
Buducnost	20	6	3	2	9	18	28	15
Sloboda	20	6	2	6	6	18	23	14
Sarajevo	20	5	4	3	8	22	28	14
Napredak	20	7	0	3	10	26	34	14
Celik	20	7	3	2	8	20	25	11
Zeljeznicar	20	5	1	2	12	20	33	11

ISRAEL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Maccabi Natanya	26	14	7	5	35	25	49
Maccabi Haifa**	26	12	13	1	41	16	47
Hapoel Petah Tikva**	26	12	9	5	28	19	23
Beitar Tel Aviv	26	10	9	7	24	22	39
Hapoel Be'er Sheva	26	10	9	7	19	18	39
Shimshon Tel Aviv	26	8	12	6	25	30	36
Hapoel Jerusalem*	26	9	9	8	20	19	35
Beitar Jerusalem	26	9	5	12	28	31	32
Maccabi Tel Aviv**	26	7	10	9	30	34	29
Hapoel Kfar Saba	26	6	10	10	21	29	28
Tsafririm Hollon**	26	6	9	11	27	28	25
Bnei Yehuda Tel aviv	26	4	13	9	21	23	25
Hapeol Tel Aviv****	26	6	8	12	24	37	22
Hapoel Tiberias	26	5	5	16	20	42	20

(*) — The number of points deducted at the beginning of the season, for breaking the payments regulations.

The top six teams will play in the championship play-off, the bottom eight, in the relagation play-off.

ENGLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arsenal	33	19	9	5	62	32	66
Liverpool	32	18	9	5	55	24	63
Norwich City	34	16	10	8	45	37	58
Nottingham Forest	33	15	12	6	53	37	57
Tottenham	36	14	12	10	55	45	54
Derby County	33	15	7	11	36	29	52
Millwall	34	14	9	11	44	41	51
Coventry City	35	13	11	11	43	39	50
Wimbledon	33	13	8	12	43	40	47
Manchester United	32	11	12	9	38	27	45
QPR	34	11	11	12	38	33	44
Everton	33	11	11	11	44	42	44
Aston Villa	34	9	11	14	41	50	38
Middlesbrough	35	9	11	15	43	58	38
Southampton	35	8	14	13	47	63	38
Sheffield Wed	35	9	11	15	31	47	38
Charlton	33	8	12	13	38	48	36
Luton Town	34	7	11	16	33	49	32
Newcastle United	34	7	9	18	30	54	30
West Ham	32	6	8	18	28	52	26

SCOTLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	32	21	4	5	54	22	50
Aberdeen	33	17	12	4	48	25	46
Celtic	33	19	3	11	64	44	41
Dundee United	32	15	11	6	42	22	41
Hibernian	33	13	8	12	35	32	34
Hearts	33	9	11	13	34	37	29
St Mirren	33	11	7	15	38	48	29
Dundee	33	8	9	16	31	45	25
Motherwell	33	6	11	16	30	43	23
Hamilton	33	4	2	27	16	74	10

SOUTH & CENTRAL AMERICAN LEAGUE TABLES

ARGENTINA

National A Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Boca Juniors	27	15	6	6	40	26	55
Independiente	27	12	10	5	43	27	52
Gim y Esg. La Plata	27	10	12	5	27	18	51
Argentinoas Juniors	27	11	10	6	44	28	50
Racing Avellaneda†	27	11	11	5	36	28	49
Estud La Plata	27	11	11	5	35	25	48
River Plate	27	12	8	7	48	28	47
Dep. Espanol	27	11	10	6	31	21	47
San Lorenzo	27	11	7	9	46	32	46
Newell's Old Boys‡	27	8	11	8	28	29	40
Talleres Cordoba	27	8	10	9	33	36	38
Rosario Central‡	27	7	10	10	39	43	36
Platense	27	8	7	12	24	36	36
FC Oeste	27	5	12	10	22	29	34
Velez Sarsfield	27	5	11	11	27	39	34
Dep.Mandiyu (C)	27	5	12	10	27	37	33
Racing Cordoba	27	6	9	12	23	39	32
S Martin (Tucuman)	27	7	9	11	27	39	31
Dep. Armenio	27	4	11	12	22	39	28
Instituto Cordoba	27	4	8	15	24	45	20

*Three points for a win, two to the winner of penalty shoot-out and one to loser to decide a draw — (†) will lose two points and (‡) one each at end of championship.

Lowest relegation averages (of points obtained over last three years) — bottom two relegated: Platense 0.85, San Martin 0.83, Dep. Mandiyu, Racing Cordoba and Dep. Armenio 0.82.

COLOMBIA: Professional Championship

After 3 games: 1) Nacional & Junior Barranquilla 5 points; 3) Independiente Medellin, America, Caldas & Pereira 4; 7) Independiente Santa Fe, Union Magdalena & Millonarios 3; 10) Tolima 2; 11) Deportivo Cali, Sporting Barranquilla, Cucuta, Bucaramanga & Quindio 1.

ECUADOR: First Division

After 6 games: 1) Barcelona 10 points; 2) Liga Universitaria Quito 9; 3) Emelec 8; 4) Filanbanco & Macara 6; 6) Nacional & Aucas 5; 8) Deportivo Quito & Liga Portoviejo 4; 10) Tecnico Universitario, Audaz Octubrino & Deportivo Cuenca 3.

BOLIVIA

Professional League

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Destroyers	4	3	1	0	7
Real Santa Cruz	3	1	1	1	3
Oriente Petroler	2	1	0	1	2
Always Ready	1	1	0	0	2
Blooming	2	0	2	0	2
Universitario	3	1	0	2	2
Ciclon	2	0	1	1	1
Litoral	1	0	0	1	0
Bolivar	–	–	–	–	–
The Strongest	–	–	–	–	–

PARAGUAY: First Division

After 3 games: 1) Guarani & Olimpia 6 points; 3) San Lorenzo 4; 4) Sportivo Luqueno, Sport Colombia & Colegiales 3; 7) River Plate, Libertad, Tembetary, Cerro Porteno & General Caballero 2; 12) Sol de America 1.

PERU

Regional championship
Metropolitan zone

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Union Huaral	5	3	2	0	7	3	8
Alianza Lima	6	3	2	1	8	4	8
La Joya Meteor	6	3	2	1	6	4	8
Sporting Cristal	6	3	1	2	12	8	7
Defensor Lima	5	2	2	1	12	6	6
San Agustin	6	2	2	2	9	9	6
Universitario	5	2	1	2	7	8	5
Internacional	6	2	1	3	7	9	5
Octavio Espinoza	5	1	1	3	4	8	3
AELU	5	1	1	3	6	10	3
Municipal	5	0	1	4	5	13	1

VENEZUELA

Professional League

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Pepeganga	19	11	6	2	28
Mineros Guyana	19	9	8	2	26
Maritimo	19	10	5	4	25
Portuguesa	19	10	3	6	23
Zamora	19	7	8	4	22
Lara	19	8	6	5	22
Carcas FC	19	7	7	5	21
Tachira	18	8	5	5	21
Italia	19	7	5	7	19
Universidad los Andes	18	6	6	6	18
Minerven	19	4	9	6	17
Galicia	20	3	11	6	17
Anzoategui	19	6	4	9	16
Estudiantes	18	4	7	7	15
Arroceros	19	2	3	14	7
Peninsulares	19	0	5	14	5

MEXICO

First Division

Group 1	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
America	24	12	7	5	41	24	31
Cruz Azul	24	6	9	9	36	41	21
Monterrey	24	5	11	8	29	38	21
Irapuato	23	5	8	10	23	35	18
Toluca	24	6	6	12	37	48	18
Group 2							
Puebla	24	12	9	3	42	15	33
Atlante	24	12	6	6	34	23	30
Univ. de Guadal	24	9	7	8	32	31	25
Santos	24	5	9	10	16	35	19
Univ. Nuevo Leon	24	6	6	12	24	46	18
Group 3							
Tampico Madero	24	11	5	7	46	32	27
Guadalajara	24	10	7	7	37	30	27
Morelia	24	7	13	4	36	33	27
Necaxa	24	9	6	9	29	28	24
Potosino	24	4	7	13	26	42	15
Group 4							
Un. Aut. de Mexico	24	11	8	5	33	18	30
Un. A. de Guadal	23	11	6	6	33	23	28
Un. Tamaulipas	24	9	7	8	32	31	25
Cobras de Juarez	24	5	12	7	26	34	22
Atlas	23	7	5	12	37	41	19

COSTA RICA: First Division

After 23 games: 1) Saprissa 39 points; 2) Herediano 39; 3) Alajuelense 33; 4) Puntarenas 33; 5) Cartagines 31; 6) Limon 30; 7) Uruguay 26; 8) San Carlos 24; 9) Guanacaste 23; 10) San Ramon 22.

WORLD CUP . . . RESULTS, TABLES AND FIXTURES

EUROPE

GROUP 1

19.10.88	Greece v Denmark	1-1
19.10.88	Bulgaria v Rumania	1-3
2.11.88	Rumania v Greece	3-0
2.11.88	Denmark v Bulgaria	1-1
26. 4.89	Greece v Rumania	
26. 4.89	Bulgaria v Denmark	
17. 5.89	Rumania v Bulgaria	
17. 5.89	Denmark v Greece	
11.10.89	Bulgaria v Greece	
11.10.89	Denmark v Rumania	
15.11.89	Greece v Bulgaria	
15.11.89	Rumania v Denmark	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rumania	2	2	0	0	6	1	4
Denmark	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Bulgaria	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
Greece	2	0	1	1	1	4	1

GROUP 2

19.10.88	England v Sweden	0-0
19.10.88	Poland v Albania	1-0
5.11.88	Albania v Sweden	1-2
8. 3.89	Albania v England	0-2
26. 4.89	England v Albania	
7. 5.89	Sweden v Poland	
3. 6.89	England v Poland	
6. 9.89	Sweden v England	
8.10.89	Sweden v Albania	
11.10.89	Poland v England	
25.10.89	Poland v Sweden	
15.11.89	Albania v Poland	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	2	1	1	0	2	0	3
Sweden	2	1	1	0	2	1	3
Poland	1	1	0	0	1	0	2
Albania	3	0	0	3	1	5	0

GROUP 3

31. 8.88	Iceland v Soviet Union	1-1
12.10.88	Turkey v Iceland	1-1
19.10.88	Soviet Union v Austria	2-0
19.10.88	East Germany v Iceland	2-0
2.11.88	Austria v Turkey	3-2
30.11.88	Turkey v East Germany	3-1
12. 4.89	East Germany v Turkey	0-2
26. 4.89	Soviet Union v East Germany	
10. 5.89	Turkey v Soviet Union	
17. 5.89	East Germany v Austria	
31. 5.89	Soviet Union v Iceland	
14. 6.89	Iceland v Austria	
23. 8.89	Austria v Iceland	
6. 9.89	Austria v Soviet Union	
6. 9.89	Iceland v East Germany	
20. 9.89	Iceland v Turkey	
25.10.89	East Germany v Soviet Union	
25.10.89	Turkey v Austria	
8.11.89	Soviet Union v Turkey	
15.11.89	Austria v East Germany	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Turkey	4	2	1	1	8	5	5
Soviet Union	2	1	1	0	3	1	3
East Germany	3	1	0	2	3	5	2
Iceland	3	0	2	1	2	2	2
Austria	2	1	0	1	3	4	2

GROUP 4

31. 8.88	Finland v West Germany	0-4
14. 9.88	Holland v Wales	1-0
19.10.88	Wales v Finland	2-2
19.10.88	West Germany v Holland	0-0
26. 4.89	Holland v West Germany	
31. 5.89	Wales v West Germany	
31. 5.89	Finland v Holland	
6. 9.89	Finland v Wales	
4.10.89	West Germany v Finland	
11.10.89	Wales v Holland	
15.11.89	West Germany v Wales	
15.11.89	Holland v Finland	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
West Germany	2	1	1	0	4	0	3
Holland	2	1	1	0	1	0	3
Wales	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Finland	2	0	1	1	2	6	0

GROUP 5

14. 9.88	Norway v Scotland	1-2
28. 9.88	France v Norway	1-0
19.10.88	Scotland v Yugoslavia	1-1
22.10.88	Cyprus v France	1-1
2.11.88	Cyprus v Norway	0-3
19.11.88	Yugoslavia v France	3-2
11.12.88	Yugoslavia v Cyprus	4-0
8. 2.89	Cyprus v Scotland	2-3
8. 3.89	Scotland v France	2-0
26. 4.89	Scotland v Cyprus	
29. 4.89	France v Yugoslavia	
16. 5.89	Norway v Cyprus	
14. 6.89	Norway v Yugoslavia	
5. 9.89	Norway v France	
6. 9.89	Yugoslavia v Scotland	
11.10.89	Yugoslavia v Norway	
11.10.89	France v Scotland	
28.10.89	Cyprus v Yugoslavia	
15.11.89	Scotland v Norway	
18.11.89	France v Cyprus	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scotland	4	3	1	0	8	4	7
Yugoslavia	3	2	1	0	8	3	5
France	4	1	1	2	4	6	3
Norway	3	1	0	2	4	3	2
Cyprus	4	0	1	3	3	11	1

GROUP 6

21. 5.88	Northern Ireland v Malta	3-0
14. 9.88	Northern Ireland v Rep. Ireland	0-0
19.10.88	Hungary v Northern Ireland	1-0
16.11.88	Spain v Rep. Ireland	2-0
11.12.88	Malta v Hungary	2-2
21.12.88	Spain v Northern Ireland	4-0
22. 1.89	Malta v Spain	0-2
8. 2.89	Northern Ireland v Spain	0-2
8. 3.89	Hungary v Rep. Ireland	0-0
22. 3.89	Spain v Malta	4-0
12. 4.89	Hungary v Malta	1-1
26. 4.89	Malta v Northern Ireland	
26. 4.89	Rep. Ireland v Spain	
28. 5.89	Rep. Ireland v Malta	
4. 6.89	Rep. Ireland v Hungary	
6. 9.89	Northern Ireland v Hungary	
11.10.89	Hungary v Spain	
11.10.89	Rep. Ireland v Northern Ireland	
15.11.89	Spain v Hungary	
15.11.89	Malta v Rep. Ireland	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	5	5	0	0	14	0	10
Hungary	4	1	3	0	4	3	5
Northern Ireland	5	1	1	3	3	7	3
Rep. Ireland	3	0	2	1	0	2	2
Malta	4	0	2	2	3	7	2

GROUP 7

1. 9.88	Luxembourg v Switzerland	1-4
19.10.88	Luxembourg v Czechoslovakia	0-2
19.10.88	Belgium v Switzerland	1-0
16.11.88	Czechoslovakia v Belgium	0-0
16.11.88	Portugal v Luxembourg	1-0
15. 2.89	Portugal v Belgium	1-1
26. 4.89	Portugal v Switzerland	
30. 4.89	Belgium v Czechoslovakia	
9. 5.89	Czechoslovakia v Luxembourg	
7. 6.89	Luxembourg v Belgium	
7. 6.89	Switzerland v Czechoslovakia	
6. 9.89	Belgium v Portugal	
20. 9.89	Switzerland v Portugal	
6.10.89	Czechoslovakia v Portugal	
11.10.89	Luxembourg v Portugal	
11.10.89	Switzerland v Belgium	
25.10.89	Czechoslovakia v Switzerland	
25.10.89	Belgium v Luxembourg	
15.11.89	Portugal v Czechoslovakia	
15.11.89	Switzerland v Luxembourg	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belgium	3	1	2	0	2	1	4
Czechoslovakia	2	1	1	0	2	0	3
Portugal	2	1	1	0	2	1	3
Switzerland	2	1	0	1	4	2	2
Luxembourg	3	0	0	3	1	7	0

Winners and runners-up from groups 3, 5, 6 and 7 qualify for the finals along with the winners of groups 1, 2 and 4 plus the two runners-up from groups 1, 2, and 4 with the best comparative records.

AFRICA

ROUND 1

7. 8.88	Angola v Sudan	0-0
11.11.88	Sudan v Angola	1-2
	Angola 2-1 on agg	
	Zimbabwe w/o v Lesotho	
	Zambia w/o v Rwanda (withdrew)	
16. 7.88	Uganda v Malawi	1-0
30. 7.88	Malawi v Uganda	3-1
	Malawi 3-2 on agg	
3. 6.89	Libya v Burkino Faso	3-0
3. 7.89	Burkino Faso v Libya	2-0
	Libya 3-2 on agg	
7. 8.88	Ghana v Liberia	0-0
21. 8.88	Liberia v Ghana	2-0
	Liberia 2-0 on agg	
5. 8.88	Tunisia v Guinea	5-0
21. 8.88	Guinea v Tunisia	3-0
	Tunisia 5-3 on agg	
	Gabon w/o v Togo	

ROUND 2

Group A

6. 1.89	Algeria v Zimbabwe	3-0
8. 1.89	Ivory Coast v Libya	1-0
20. 1.89	Libya v Algeria	0-2
	(Libya withdrew: Algeria walk-over)	
22. 1.89	Zimbabwe v Ivory Coast	0-0
11. 6.89	Ivory Coast v Algeria	
11. 6.89	Zimbabwe v Libya	
23. 6.89	Libya v Ivory Coast	
25. 6.89	Zimbabwe v Algeria	
11. 8.89	Algeria v Libya	
13. 8.89	Ivory Coast v Zimbabwe	
25. 8.89	Algeria v Ivory Coast	
25. 8.89	Libya v Zimbabwe	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Algeria	2	2	0	0	5	0	4
Ivory Coast	2	1	1	0	1	0	3
Zimbabwe	2	0	1	1	0	3	1
Libya	2	0	0	2	0	3	0

Group B

6. 1.89	Egypt v Liberia	2-0
7. 1.89	Kenya v Malawi	1-1
21. 1.89	Malawi v Egypt	1-1
22. 1.89	Liberia v Kenya	0-0
10. 6.89	Kenya v Egypt	
11. 6.89	Liberia v Malawi	
24. 6.89	Malawi v Kenya	
25. 6.89	Liberia v Egypt	
11. 8.89	Egypt v Malawi	
12. 8.89	Kenya v Liberia	
25. 8.89	Egypt v Kenya	
26. 8.89	Malawi v Liberia	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Egypt	2	1	1	0	3	1	3
Malawi	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Kenya	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Liberia	2	0	1	1	0	2	1

Group C

7. 1.89	Nigeria v Gabon	1-0
8. 1.89	Cameroon v Angola	1-1
22. 1.89	Gabon v Cameroon	1-3
22. 1.89	Angola v Nigeria	2-2
10. 6.89	Nigeria v Cameroon	
10. 6.89	Angola v Gabon	
25. 6.89	Gabon v Nigeria	
12. 8.89	Nigeria v Angola	
13. 8.89	Cameroon v Gabon	
27. 8.89	Cameroon v Nigeria	
27. 8.89	Gabon v Angola	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cameroon	2	1	1	0	4	2	3
Nigeria	2	1	1	0	3	2	3
Angola	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
Gabon	2	0	0	2	1	4	0

Group D

8. 1.89	Morocco v Zambia	1-0
8. 1.89	Zaire v Tunisia	3-1
22. 1.89	Tunisia v Morocco	2-1
22. 1.89	Zambia v Zaire	4-2
11. 6.89	Zaire v Morocco	
11. 6.89	Zambia v Tunisia	
25. 6.89	Zambia v Morocco	
25. 6.89	Tunisia v Zaire	
13. 8.89	Morocco v Tunisia	
13. 8.89	Zaire v Tunisia	

25. 8.89 Tunisia v Zambia
27. 8.89 Morocco v Zaire

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zambia	2	1	0	1	4	3	2
Zaire	2	1	0	1	5	5	3
Morocco	2	1	0	1	2	2	2
Tunisia	2	1	0	1	3	4	2

ROUND 3

Winners Gp 1 v Winners Gp 2; Winners Gp 3 v Winners Gp 4. Aggregate winning teams qualify for the finals.

ASIA

WEST ASIA

Group 1: Jordan, Iraq, Oman, Qatar.

6. 1.89 Qatar v Jordan 1-0
6. 1.89 Oman v Iraq 1-1
13. 1.89 Oman v Qatar 0-0
13. 1.89 Jordan v Iraq 0-1
20. 1.89 Jordan v Oman 2-0
20. 1.89 Qatar v Iraq 1-0
27. 1.89 Jordan v Qatar 1-1
27. 1.89 Iraq v Oman 3-0
3. 2.89 Qatar v Oman 3-0
3. 2.89 Iraq v Jordan 4-0
10. 2.89 Oman v Jordan 0-2
10. 2.89 Iraq v Qatar 2-2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Qatar	6	3	3	0	8	3	9
Iraq	6	3	2	1	11	5	8
Jordan	6	2	1	3	5	7	5
Oman	6	0	2	4	2	11	2

Group 2 (Bahrain withdrew)

10. 3.89 Yemen AR v Syria 0-1
15. 3.89 Saudi Arabia v Syria 5-4
20. 3.89 Yemen AR v Saudi Arabia 0-1
25. 3.89 Syria v Yemen AR 2-0
30. 3.89 Syria v Saudi Arabia 0-0
5. 4.89 Saudi Arabia v Yemen AR 1-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
S. Arabia	4	3	1	0	7	4	7
Syria	4	2	1	1	7	5	5
Yemen AR	4	0	0	4	0	5	0

Group 3: UAE, Kuwait, Pakistan (RP 'South' Yemen withdrew).

6. 1.89 Pakistan v Kuwait 0-1
13. 1.89 Kuwait v UAE 3-2
20. 1.89 UAE v Pakistan 5-0
27. 1.89 Kuwait v Pakistan 2-0
3. 2.89 UAE v Kuwait 1-0
10. 2.89 Pakistan v UAE 1-4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
UAE	4	3	0	1	12	4	6
Kuwait	4	3	0	1	6	3	6
Pakistan	4	0	0	4	1	2	0

EAST ASIA

Group 4: (India withdrew so Nepal switched from Group 5)

Following matches all in S. Korea:

23. 5.89 Malaysia v Nepal
23. 5.89 Singapore v S. Korea
25. 5.89 Malaysia v Singapore
25. 5.89 Nepal v S. Korea
27. 5.89 Singapore v Nepal
27. 5.89 S. Korea v Malaysia

Following matches all in Singapore:

3. 6.89 Singapore v Malaysia
3. 6.89 S. Korea v Nepal
5. 6.89 Malaysia v S. Korea
5. 6.89 Nepal v Singapore
7. 6.89 Singapore v S. Korea
7. 6.89 Malaysia v Nepal

Group 5

20. 2.89 Thailand v Bangladesh 1-0
23. 2.89 China v Bangladesh 2-0
23. 2.89 Thailand v Iran 0-3
27. 2.89 Bangladesh v Iran 1-2
28. 2.89 Thailand v China 0-3
4. 3.89 Bangladesh v China 0-2
8. 3.89 Bangladesh v Thailand 3-1
17. 3.89 Iran v Bangladesh 1-0
11. 6.89 China v Iran
21. 6.89 Iran v China
28. 6.89 China v Thailand

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
China	3	3	0	0	7	0	6
Iran	3	3	0	0	6	1	6
Bangladesh	6	1	0	5	4	9	2
Thailand	4	1	0	3	2	9	2

Group 6

21. 5.89 Indonesia v N.Korea
21. 5.89 Hong Kong v Japan
27. 5.89 Hong Kong v N. Korea
28. 5.89 Indonesia v Japan
4. 6.89 Hong Kong v Indonesia
4. 6.89 Japan v N. Korea
11. 6.89 N. Korea v Hong Kong
11. 6.89 Japan v Indonesia
18. 6.89 N. Korea v Indonesia
18. 6.89 Japan v Hong Kong
25. 6.89 Indonesia v Hong Kong
25. 6.89 N. Korea v Japan

Winners of all groups play off in a league system with top two teams qualifying for the finals.

NORTH/CENTRAL AMERICA

round 1

19. 6.88 Antigua v Neth. Antilles 0-1
29. 7.88 Neth. Antilles v Antigua 3-1
Neth. Antilles 4-1 on agg
12. 5.88 Jamaica v Puerto Rico 1-0
29. 5.88 Puerto Rico v Jamaica 1-2
Jamaica 3-1 on agg
17. 4.88 Guyana v Trinidad/Tobago 0-4
8. 5.88 Trinidad/Tobago v Guyana 1-0
Trinidad/Tobago 5-0 on agg
17. 7.88 Costa Rica v Panama 1-1
31. 7.88 Panama v Costa Rica 0-2
Costa Rica 3-1 on agg
30. 4.88 Cuba v Guatemala 0-1
15. 5.88 Guatemala v Cuba 1-1
Guatemala 2-1 on agg

Round Two

1.10.88 Neth. Antilles v El Salvador 0-1
16.10.88 El Salvador v Neth. Antilles 5-0
El Salvador 6-0 on agg
30.10.88 Trinidad/Tobago v Honduras 0-0
13.11.88 Honduras v Trinidad/Tobago 1-1
Trinidad/Tobago on away goal: 1-1 agg
24. 7.88 Jamaica v United States 0-0
31. 7.88 United States v Jamaica 5-1
United States 5-1 on agg
9.10.88 Guatemala v Canada 1-0
15.10.88 Canada v Guatemala 3-2
Guatemala on away goals: 3-3 agg
Costa Rica w/o v Mexico

Round Three

19. 3.89 Guatemala v Costa Rica 1-0
2. 4.89 Costa Rica v Guatemala 2-1
16. 4.89 Costa Rica v United States 1-0
30. 4.89 United States v Costa Rica
13. 5.89 United States v Trin/Tobago
28. 5.89 Trin/Tobago v Costa Rica
10. 6.89 United States v Guatemala
11. 6.89 Costa Rica v Trin/Tobago
25. 6.89 El Salvador v Costa Rica
9. 7.89 El Salvador v United States
16. 7.89 Costa Rica v El Salvador
30. 7.89 Trin/Tobago v El Salvador
13. 8.89 El Salvador v Trin/Tobago
20. 8.89 Guatemala v Trin/Tobago
3. 9.89 Trin/Tobago v Guatemala
8.10.89 Guatemala v United States
5.11.89 United States v El Salvador
19.11.89 Trin/Tobago v United States
19.11.89 Guatemala v El Salvador
26.11.89 El Salvador v Guatemala

Note: Top two qualify for finals.

OCEANIA

Round 1

11.12.88 Taiwan v New Zealand 0-4
18.12.88 New Zealand v Taiwan 4-1
New Zealand 8-1 on agg
26.11.88 Fiji v Australia 1-0
3.12.88 Australia v Fiji 5-2
Australia 5-3 on agg

Round 2

5. 3.89 Israel v New Zealand 1-0
12. 3.89 Australia v New Zealand 4-1
19. 3.89 Israel v Australia 1-1
2. 4.89 New Zealand v Australia 2-0
9. 4.89 New Zealand v Israel 2-2
16. 4.89 Australia v Israel 1-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Israel	4	1	3	0	5	4	5
Australia	4	1	2	1	6	5	4
N. Zealand	4	1	1	2	5	7	3

Israel play winners of S. America Gp 2 for place in the finals.

SOUTH AMERICA

Group 1

20. 8.89 Bolivia v Peru
27. 8.89 Peru v Uruguay
3. 9.89 Bolivia v Uruguay
10. 9.89 Peru v Bolivia
17. 9.89 Uruguay v Bolivia
24. 9.89 Uruguay v Peru

Group 2

20. 8.89 Colombia v Ecuador
27. 8.89 Paraguay v Colombia
3. 9.89 Ecuador v Colombia
10. 9.89 Paraguay v Ecuador
24. 9.89 Colombia v Paraguay
1.10.89 Ecuador v Paraguay

Group 3

30. 7.89 Venezuela v Brazil
6. 8.89 Venezuela v Chile
13. 8.89 Chile v Brazil
20. 8.89 Brazil v Venezuela
27. 8.89 Chile v Venezuela
3. 9.89 Brazil v Chile

Winners of Groups 1 and 3 qualify for the finals. Winners of Gp 2 play off against Oceania section winners for place in the finals.

Imre Boda fires home the penalty against Malta which gave Hungary a 1-1 Group Six draw in Budapest last month.

● Continued from page 21

That, however, paled into insignificance when, at the end of the 1987-88 season, Lam announced he had severed his links with South China and was joining Double Flower — the club owned by Brian Kan; a long-standing personal friend and trainer of his race horses, as principal backer.

Five leading South China players then revealed that they were contracted to Lam personally, and not the club, and would also be moving to Double Flower, which was subsequently renamed Lai Sun.

Lai Sun is an industrial group whose chief executive is Peter Lam!

These events prompted an unsuccessful campaign for thorough investigations into the sensational game late in the last seasonn when a strangely lethargic South China, already assured of the title, lost to lowly Double Flower.

That result enabled Double Flower to avoid relegation and condemned Hong Kong Football Club, an all-amateur team comprised almost exclusively of British expatriates, to the drop.

Hong Kong Football Club's appeals to first the HKFA and then FIFA, claiming that the game had been rigged were both, not unexpectedly, rejected but a very nasty taste had been left in numerous mouths and Lam's excesses, both real and imagined, have lost him both friends and influence.

There is no doubt that the most powerful and admired figure in Hong Kong soccer administration at the current time is HKFA chairman Lawrence Yu.

Since assuming the office a year ago, Yu has displayed much reforming zeal and appears determined to inject much more professional attitudes into all facets of the game locally and restore its now somewhat grubby image.

He has publicly stated that foreign professionals will return for 1989-90.

It only remains to be determined how many will be permitted.

Yu's personal preference is for no more than three per team, but the majority of supporters would prefer all restrictions to be lifted.

Irrespective of whether or not a quota is imposed, it seems certain that the career extension opportunities of Britain's ageing pros will have been enhanced considerably by June!

The announcement that mainland China would allow players to go overseas has caused a great deal of cross border excitement.

Not only would Chinese players have no language difficulties in Hong Kong but they would, we must expect, prove reasonably cheap.

Wu Yuhua, a talented winger and former international with Guangdong, is said to have been approached while Wu Qunli is being eyed by the TinTin Club.

However, as he is still a member of the international side, his transfer would seem unlikely to be approved.

Most exciting perhaps is the prospect of Jia Xiaquan and Liu Haiguang joining South China.

The two players appear unsettled in Yugoslavia where there have been pay rows with Partizan and as they are already playing overseas they might be allowed to go to Hong Kong despite still featuring in the Chinese World Cup hopes.

The first of this season's trophies has been decided with Lai Sun Double Flower beating Happy Valley 1-0 in the Viceroy Cup Final.

The winning goal was hit by Lai Wing-cheong who was voted the player of the tournament.

THE END OF THE ROLIGANS

THE age of the Roligans is over. Where 35,000 Danish fans flocked to Hannover for the opening European Championship match against Spain last summer, a mere 100 will journey to Bulgaria for a World Cup fixture this month.

The Roligans rest in peace. But they hooted their klaxons, painted their faces, charmed their hosts in peace too. That was the point.

They were 'Roligans' in conscious contrast to the hooligans who bedevil so much of international soccer. The riots, stabbings and pitch invasions are not just in England, Mr Moynihan.

At a recent hooligan seminar in Greece, the Danes were invited to make a formal presentation about their happy spectators.

English expert Eric Dunning believed the Roligans could prove an inspiration elsewhere.

As the Danish soccer weekly Tips Bladet (sadly ignored in Brian Glanville's collection last month) put it: "All of Europe will shed tears if the Roligans are gone."

To experience the Roligan phenonenon in Germany last summer, where the Danish team lost every match, was to have faith in soccer revitalised.

As Denmark lost 3-2 to Spain in the first match, the fans filed from the Niedersachsen stadium wearing their painted faces and horned helmets looking like Vikings trudging home with nothing left to pillage.

Instead the centre of the city was a red and white carnival long into a noisy night.

The most memorable night, though, was in Cologne seven days later when the city was a kaleidoscope of colour as Danish and Italian fans mingled everywhere, from cathedral to sausage stall to tram to soccer stadium.

Inside the ground the 'wave' rolled round in seemingly perpetual motion. Close to the press box, a drunken Dane stood on his wooden seat to sound a klaxon. Immediately a bevy of Danish voices ordered him to sit. No argument.

But Italy won 2-0 and consigned Danish soccer back to second-rate status which only an unlikely victory in Bulgaria can challenge.

With no team to cheer, the passion has ebbed away, gone it seems, as quickly and unexpectedly as it came.

The hooligan experts, I fear, will learn no lessons from the Roligan phenomenon. It was a nation enjoying its decade of glory with innocent enthusiasm.

Innocence cannot be learned or manufactured, only lost.

The world of soccer can but hope the future will bring a few more innocents abroad.

1988-90 EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP

Group 1

18.10.88	Greece v Denmark	2-2
18.10.88	Bulgaria v Rumania	2-1
1.11.88	Denmark v Bulgaria	1-3
1.11.88	Rumania v Greece	2-0
25. 4.89	Bulgaria v Denmark	
25. 4.89	Greece v Rumania	
16. 5.89	Denmark v Greece	
16. 5.89	Rumania v Bulgaria	
10.10.89	Denmark v Rumania	
10.10.89	Bulgaria v Greece	
14.11.89	Rumania v Denmark	
14.11.89	Greece v Bulgaria	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulgaria	2	2	0	0	4	2	4
Rumania	2	1	0	1	3	2	2
Denmark	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
Greece	2	0	1	1	2	4	1

Group 2

18.10.88	England v Sweden	1-1
18.10.88	Poland v Albania	0-0
4.11.88	Albania v Sweden	0-2
7. 3.89	Albania v England	0-2
25. 4.89	England v Albania	
6. 5.89	Sweden v Poland	
2. 6.89	England v Poland	
5. 9.89	Sweden v England	
7.10.89	Sweden v Albania	
10.10.89	Poland v England	
24.10.89	Poland v Sweden	
14.11.89	Poland v Sweden	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	2	1	1	0	3	1	3
Sweden	2	1	1	0	3	1	3
Poland	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Albania	3	0	1	2	0	4	1

Group 3

18.10.88	Soviet Union v Austria	2-2
1.11.88	Austria v Turkey	3-0
29.11.88	Turkey v East Germany	3-2
11. 4.89	East Germany v Turkey	0-0
25. 4.89	Soviet Union v East Germany	
9. 5.89	Turkey v Soviet Union	
16. 5.89	East Germany v Austria	
5. 9.89	Austria v Soviet Union	
6.10/ 7.10.89	East Germany v Soviet Union	
24.10.89	Turkey v Austria	
7.11.89	Soviet Union v Turkey	
14.11.89	Austria v East Germany	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Austria	2	1	1	0	5	2	3
Turkey	3	1	1	1	3	5	3
Sov. Union	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
East Germany	2	0	1	1	2	3	1

Group 4

30. 8.88	Finland v West Germany	0-3
13. 9.88	Iceland v Holland	1-1
28. 9.88	Finland v Iceland	2-1
18.10.88	West Germany v Holland	2-0
25. 4.89	Holland v West Germany	
30. 5.89	Finland v Holland	
30. 5.89	Iceland v West Germany	
5. 9.89	Iceland v Finland	
3.10.89	West Germany v Finland	
10.10.89	Holland v Iceland	
25.10.89	West Germany v Iceland	
14.11.89	Holland v Finland	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
West Germany	2	2	0	0	5	0	4
Finland	2	1	0	1	2	4	2
Iceland	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Holland	2	0	1	1	1	3	1

Group 5

13. 9.88	Norway v Scotland	1-1
27. 9.88	France v Norway	2-0
18.10.88	Scotland v Yugoslavia	0-2
18.11.88	Yugoslavia v France	2-2
7. 3.89	Scotland v France	2-3
24. 4.89	France v Yugoslavia	
13. 6.89	Norway v Yugoslavia	
5. 9.89	Norway v France	
5. 9.89	Yugoslavia v Scotland	
10.10.89	Yugoslavia v Norway	
10.10.89	France v Scotland	
14.11.89	Scotland v Norway	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	3	2	1	0	7	4	5
Yugoslavia	2	1	1	0	4	2	3
Norway	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Scotland	3	0	1	2	3	6	1

Group 6

11.12.88	Cyprus v Hungary	0-0
22. 3.89	Cyprus v Spain	0-1
12. 4.89	Hungary v Cyprus	1-0
31. 5.89	Spain v Cyprus	
10.10.89	Hungary v Spain	
14.11.89	Spain v Hungary	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hungary	2	1	1	0	1	0	3
Spain	1	1	0	0	1	0	2
Cyprus	3	0	1	2	0	2	1

Group 7

15.11.88	Czechoslovakia v Belgium	0-3
14. 2.89	Portugal v Belgium	1-1
5. 4.89	Czechoslovakia v Luxembourg	4-0
25. 4.89	Portugal v Luxembourg	
29. 4.89	Belgium v Czechoslovakia	
26. 5.89	Luxembourg v Belgium	
5. 9.89	Belgium v Portugal	
5.10.89	Czechoslovakia v Portugal	
9.10.89	Luxembourg v Portugal	
24.10.89	Belgium v Luxembourg	
14.11.89	Portugal v Luxembourg	
29.11.89	Luxembourg v Czechoslovakia	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belgium	2	1	1	0	4	1	3
Czechoslovakia	2	1	0	1	4	3	2
Portugal	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Luxembourg	1	0	0	1	0	4	0

Group 8

26. 4.89	Switzerland v Italy
6. 6.89	San Marino v Switzerland
4.10.89	San Marino v Italy
25.10.89	Italy v Switzerland
14.11.89	Switzerland v San Marino
29.11.89	Italy v San Marino

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SHOOT MAGAZINES 1983-1989. Enquiries: Amin Yeganeh, 19 Rue Du 14 Juillet, 69 100, Villeurbanne, France.

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FOR SALE: Soccer videos on NTSC. Petros Giannakopoulos, 1241 Bernadette lane, Atlanta, Geogia, 30329 USA.

EXCHANGES

FOOTBALL FAN, 21, Would like to swap football programmes from European cup, League and Internationals. P. Kutsche, Gelnitsstr 23, Berlin, 1170, DDR.

HELP! Could Norway and Sweden fans exchange 1 league programme for 1 of mine. Peter Clemons, 41 Roland Avenue, Holbrooks, Coventry, England, CV6 4HQ.

I WILL EXCHANGE Or purchase football or table tennis badges and videos (VHS) from anywhere in the world. All correspondonce replied will be answered. Also require Blackburn Rovers memorabilia. David George, 186 Downham Street, Blackburn, Lancs, BB2 6NS.

WILL EXCHANGE VIDEO (VHS) of Denmark's road to Mexico 1986 or other Danish souvenirs for World Soccer issue February 1986. Please write to: Henrik Garde, Nyborggade 18 5th, 2100 Copenhagen 0, Denmark.

EXCHANGE VIDEOS, MONEY ETC for videos of Brazil's June 1989 games against Portugal, Sweden, Denmark and Switzerland. D. Woods, 161 North Hill Drive, Harold Hill, Romford, Essex, RM3 7AE, England.

ENGLISH FAN with ink drawn posters of £1.25 m Frank McAvennie to exchange with European football fans. Write in English to: J. Mitchell, Eastview, Hempstead Road, Steeple Bumpstead, Haverhill, Suffolk, England.

LIVERPOOL SUPPORTER, 17, requires pals from Europe to exchange information and posters on Goalkeepers. All letters answered. English please. Michael Morgan, 156 Hoole Road, Woodchurch, Wirral, Merseyside, L49 9BH.

I COLLECT STADIUM POSTCARDS. I would like to exchange with collectors and football fans from all over the world. Write in English, Spanish and French. Clino D'Eletto, CP 54 — 00049 Velletri, (Roma) Italy.

FOOTBALL PROGRAMMES to exchange or buy. Write to: D'Arcy Tulloch, 27 Cradlehall Park, Westhill, Inverness, Scotland, IV1 2BZ.

EXCHANGE ANY SOUVENIRS of Scottish football teams. ie scarves, patches, programmes etc. with anybody who wishes to correspond. All letters answered. James Gilmour, 3 Marjory Drive, Gallowhill, Paisley, PA3 4TD.

I WOULD LIKE TO EXCHANGE VHS soccer videos with fans worldwide. I have about 600 soccer matches from around the world. Ernst Johannesen, Ovre Strandgate 56, 4005 Stavanger, Norway.

LOOKING FOR PEOPLE from around the world to swap football videos with me. Armando Rocha, Apartado 167, 7521 Sines Codex, Portugal.

WANTED

WANTED: VHS soccer videos pre season 84/85 involving Celtic. State price required. Also Celtic history written by W. Maley. Good price paid. Please contact. G. Brady, 225 Montford Avenue, Rutherglen, Glasgow, G73 2EG.

WANTED: 1970 World Cup Final match Brazil v Italy with Enlgish or Italian commentary. 1982 World Cup match Brazil v New Zealand. Both matches must be on VHS. Good prices paid. SI Louko, Radhuse 56c, Vasa, Finland.

PEN PALS

AUSTRALIAN MALE, 31, wishes to correspond with ladies from Italy, West Germany or Scotland. Write to: Joseph San-Laureano, PO Box 231, South Caulfield 3162, Melbourne, Australia. Send photo please.

PEN PALS WANTED for student aged 18. Interests include running, reading and music. Write to: Lamial S. Touray, PO Box 224, Banjul.

MALE, 29, Would like pen friends worldwide. Especially Scandinavia, France, Canada and Ireland. Brian Middlehurst, 18 The Close, Haydock, St Helens, Merseyside, WA11 0BY, England.

INDIAN MALE, 27, wants male and female pen pals worldwide. Hobbies are soccer, tennis, collecting stadium postcards, stamps, match tickets, league tables and programmes. Write to: Johnny Purty, 91/B Elliott Road, Calcutta-16, India.

GLASGOW RANGERS FAN, 14, seeks pen pals who follow Ajax, Nantes and Real Madrid. All letters answered. Write in English, Spanish or French. Gary Miller, 42 Craigieleard, Duntocher, Dunbartonshire, Scotland, G81 6HT.

I WOULD LIKE PEN PALS of both sexes who are fans of Ajax, Bayern Munich, Monaco, or AC Milan. Write in English to: L. Pedros, 4 Portia Walk, Sunningdale, Harare, Zimbabwe.

MOROCCON BOY, 21, fan of English football hobbies are football, reading, music and travel. Write in English or French to: Wazzi Ahmed, Rue 153 No 52 Group 7, Kenitra, Morocco.

SCOTTISH FAN would like pen pals from Spain, Italy and Holland who support Real Madrid, Barcelona, Napoli, PSV and Juventus. Rory Gowans, 13 Culduthel Road, Inverness, Scotland, IV2 4AG.

ABERDEEN FAN, 17, seeks pen pals from Europe and America, but especially fans of Enschede or Willem II. Robert Clark, 34 Cairngorm Avenue, Grantown on Spey, Moray, Scotland.

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